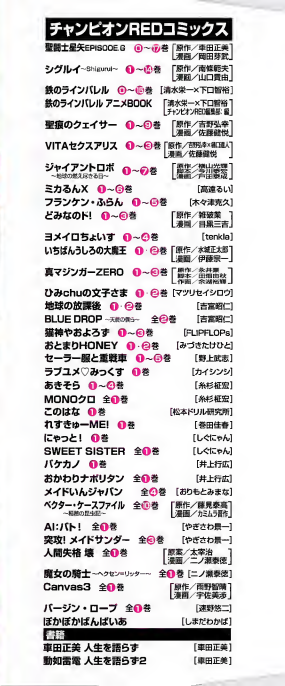

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地球の放課後 ❶〜⑥巻 [吉富昭仁]
BLUE DROP 〜天使の嗜み〜 全⑥巻 [吉富昭仁]
猫神やおよろず ❶〜⑨巻 [FLIPFLOPs]
おとまりHONEY ❶〜⑫巻 [みづきたけひと]
セーラー服と重戦車 ❶〜⑥巻 [野上武志]
ラブユメ♡みっくす ❶巻 [カイシンシ]
あきそら ❶〜⑨巻 [糸杉柾宏]
MONOクロ 全❶巻 [糸杉柾宏]
このはな ❶巻 [松本リル研究所]
れすぎゅーME! ❶巻 [春田佳春]
にゃっと! ❶巻 [しぐにゃん]
SWEET SISTER 全❶巻 [しぐにゃん]
バケカノ ❶巻 [井上行広]
おかわりナポリタン 全❶巻 [井上行広]
メイドいんジャパン 全❶巻 [おりもとみまな]
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書籍

車田正美 人生を語らず [車田正美]
動如雷電 人生を語らず2 [車田正美]

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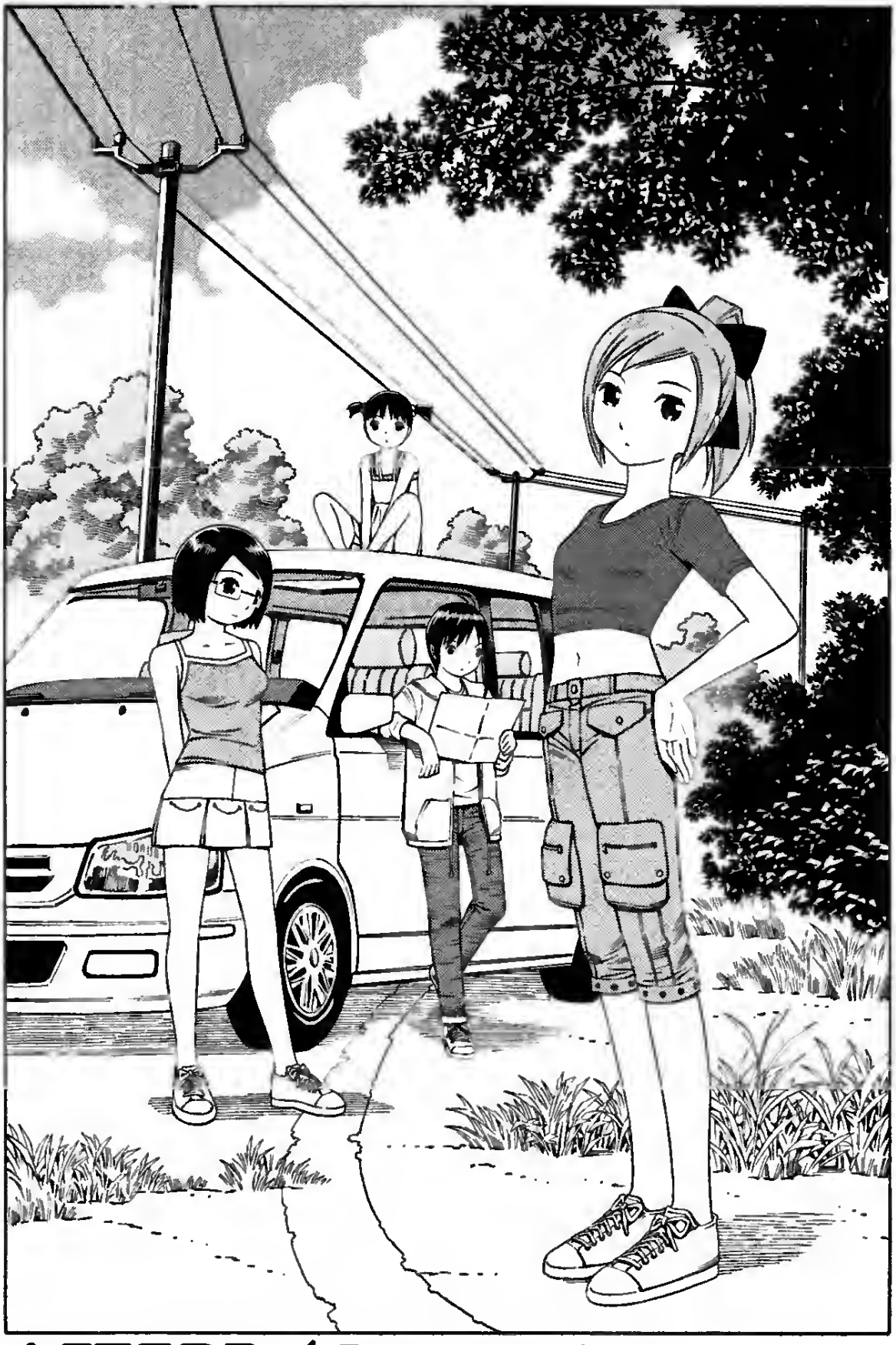
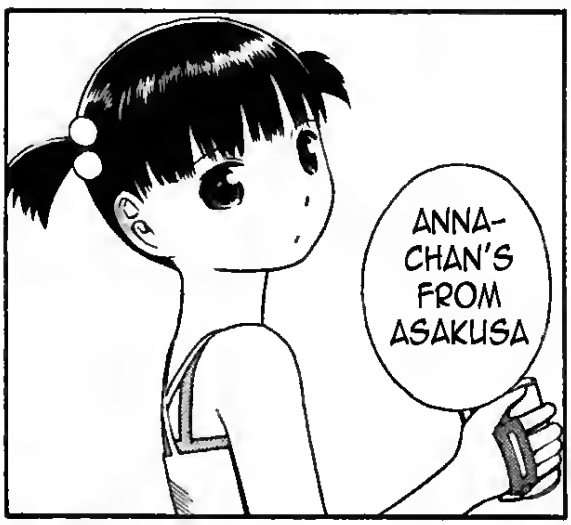
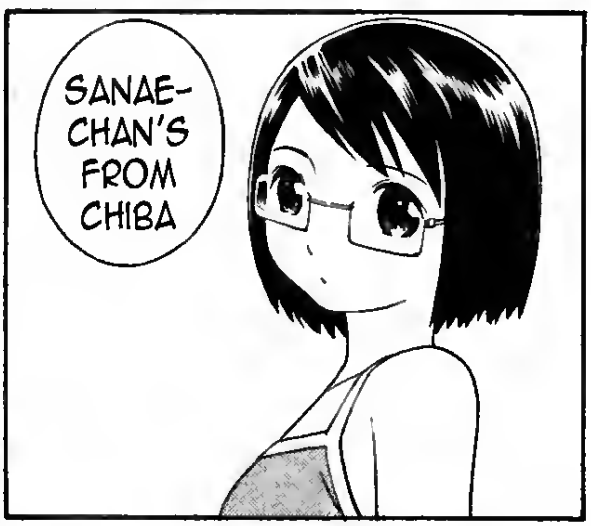
This story is fiction. Any relation to actural people, organizations, events, or the like is completely coincidence.



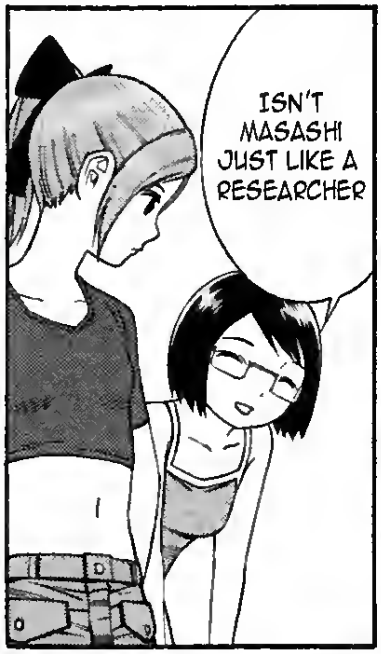
AFTER7／Researcher

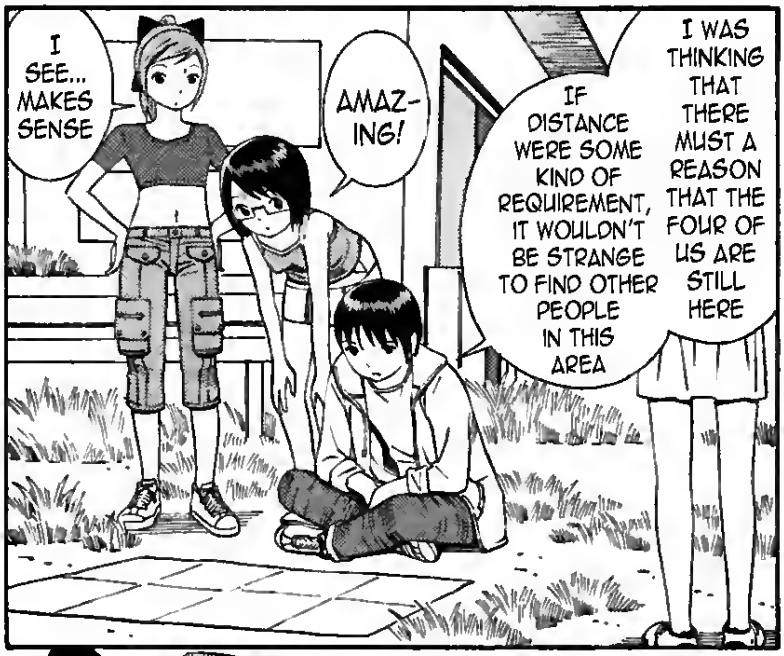
IT SEEMS LIKE NO ONE'S HERE
IS ANYONE OUT THERE!!

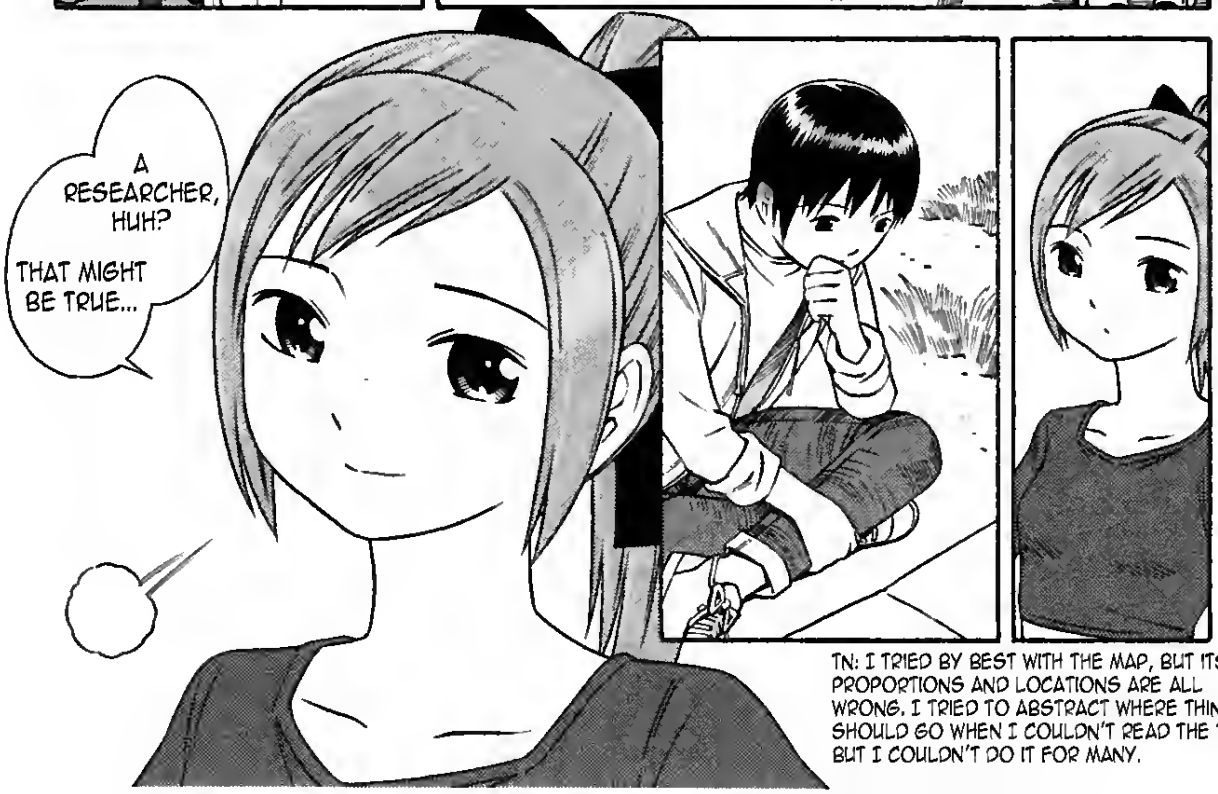

ANNA-CHAN'S FROM ASAKUSA


SANAE-CHAN'S FROM CHIBA

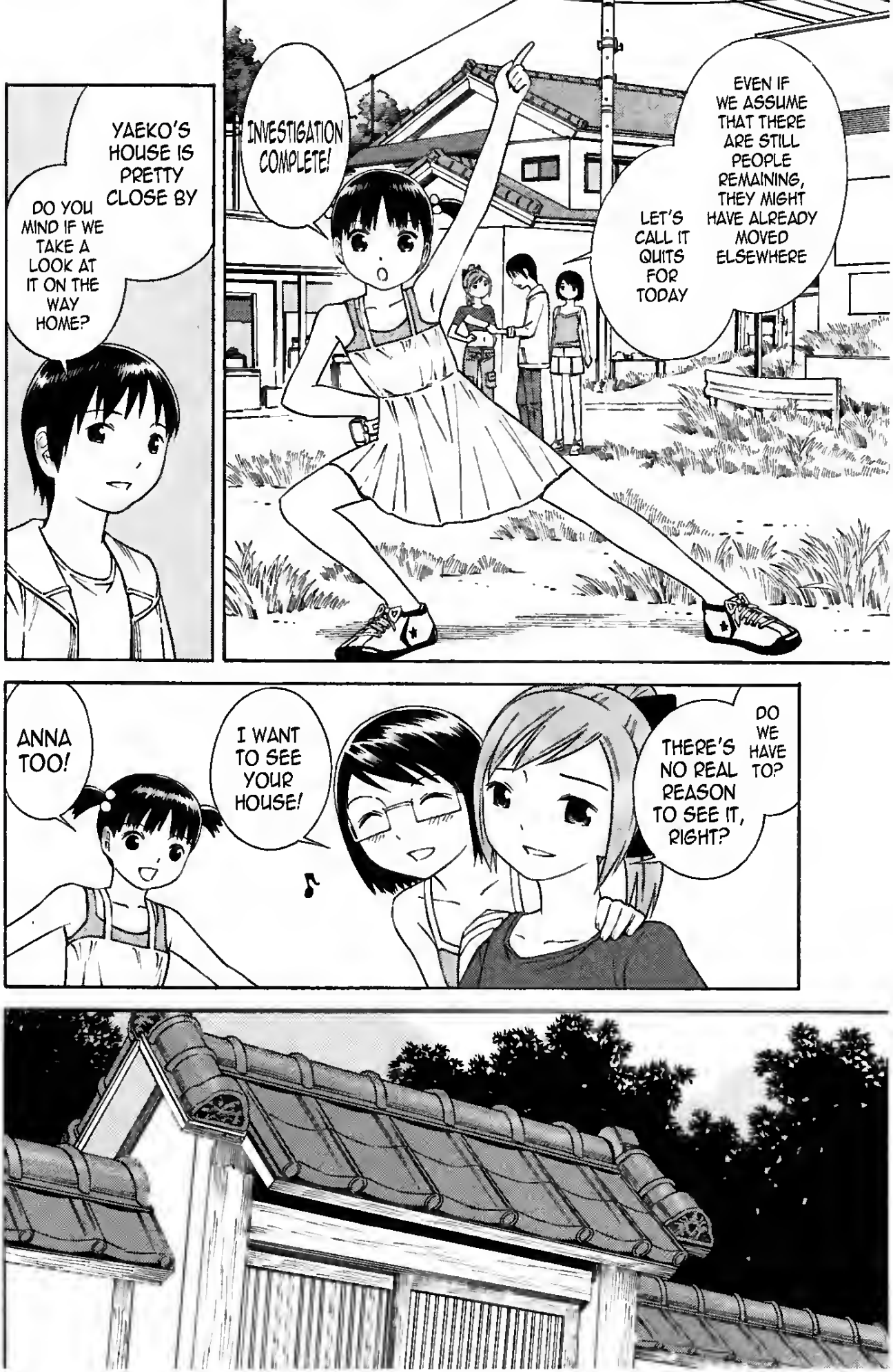
I'VE CIRCLED OUR HOUSES ON THIS MAP
AND YAEKO-CHAN'S FROM TAMA
I'M FROM SUGI-NAMI




I SEE... MAKES SENSE
AMAZ-ING!
IF DISTANCE WERE SOME KIND OF REQUIREMENT, IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE TO FIND OTHER PEOPLE IN THIS AREA
I WAS THINKING THAT THERE MUST A REASON THAT THE FOUR OF US ARE STILL HERE

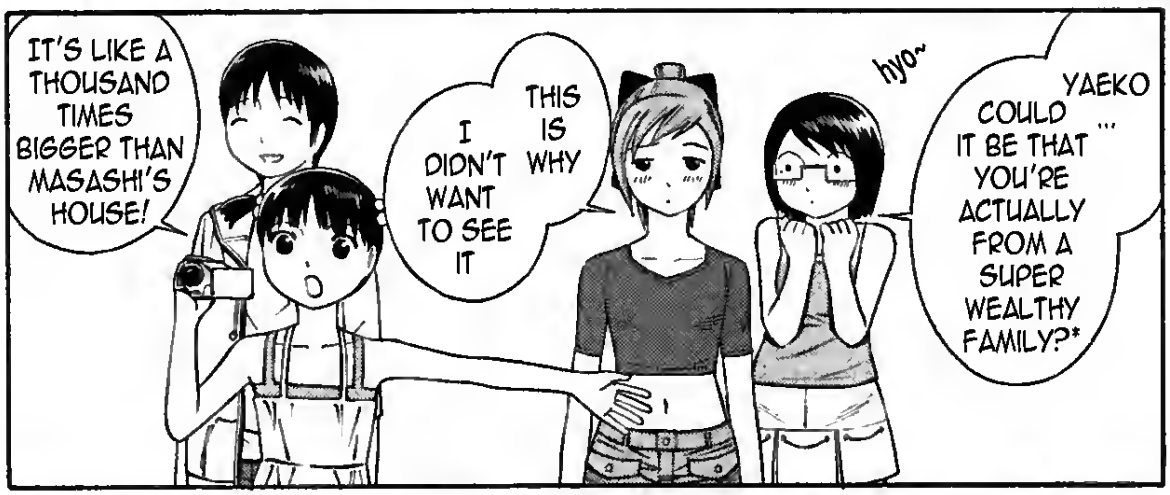


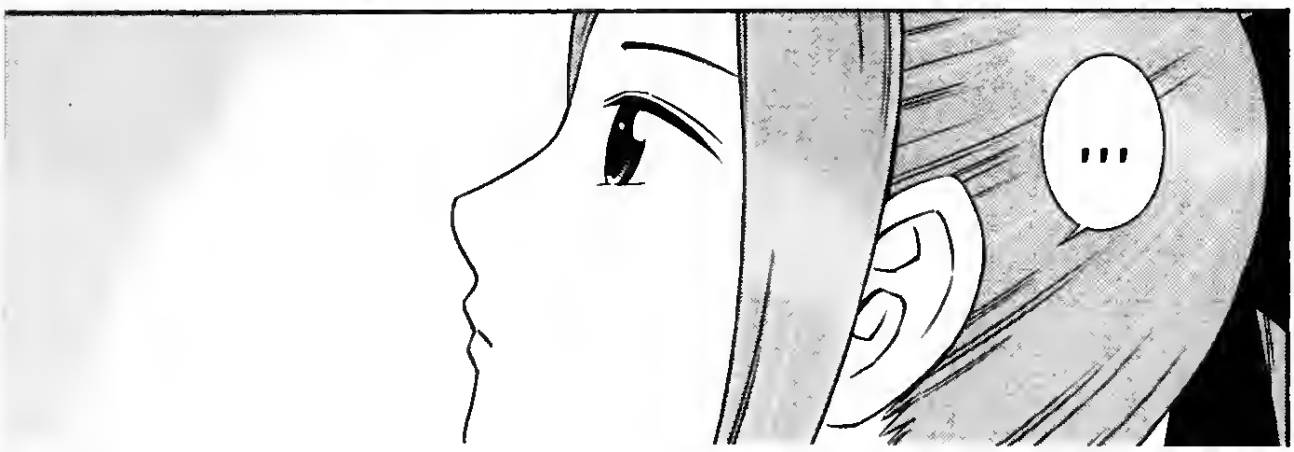
TN: I TRIED BY BEST WITH THE MAP, BUT ITS PROPORTIONS AND LOCATIONS ARE ALL WRONG. I TRIED TO ABSTRACT WHERE THINGS SHOULD GO WHEN I COULDN'T READ THE TEXT, BUT I COULDN'T DO IT FOR MANY.


YAEKO'S HOUSE IS PRETTY CLOSE BY
DO YOU MIND IF WE TAKE A LOOK AT IT ON THE WAY HOME?
INVESTIGATION COMPLETE!
EVEN IF WE ASSUME THAT THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE REMAINING, THEY MIGHT HAVE ALREADY MOVED ELSEWHERE
LET'S CALL IT QUITS FOR TODAY
ANNA TOO!
I WANT TO SEE YOUR HOUSE!
DO WE HAVE TO?
THERE'S NO REAL REASON TO SEE IT, RIGHT?

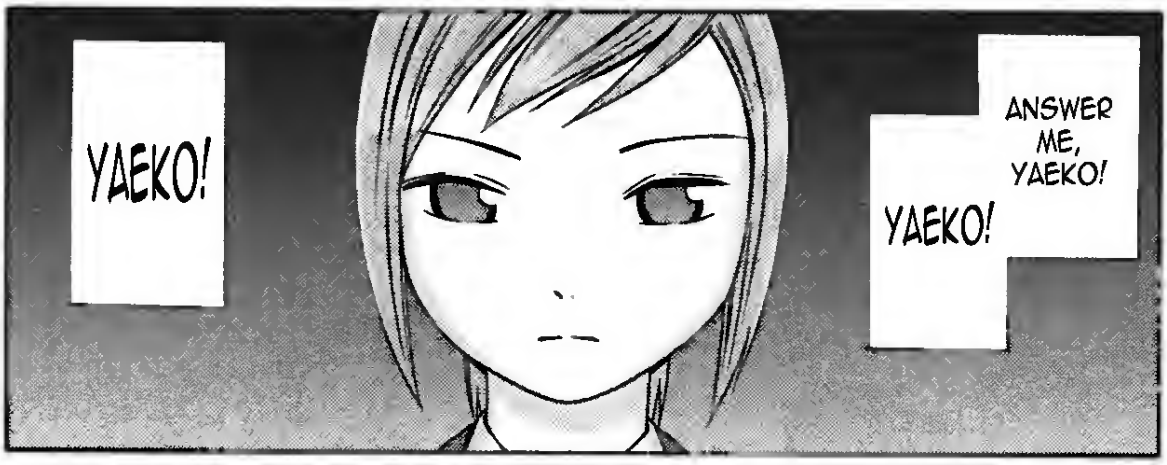
SFX: THE SOUND OF APPRAISAL

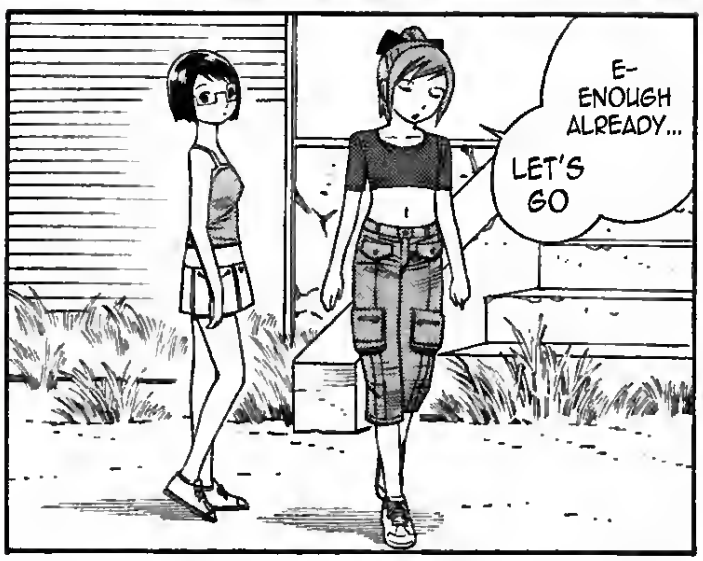
TN: SEE BACK TNS FOR MORE INFO


IT'S LIKE A THOUSAND TIMES BIGGER THAN MASASHI'S HOUSE!
I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE IT
THIS IS WHY
hyo~
YAEKO ... COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY FROM A SUPER WEALTHY FAMILY?*

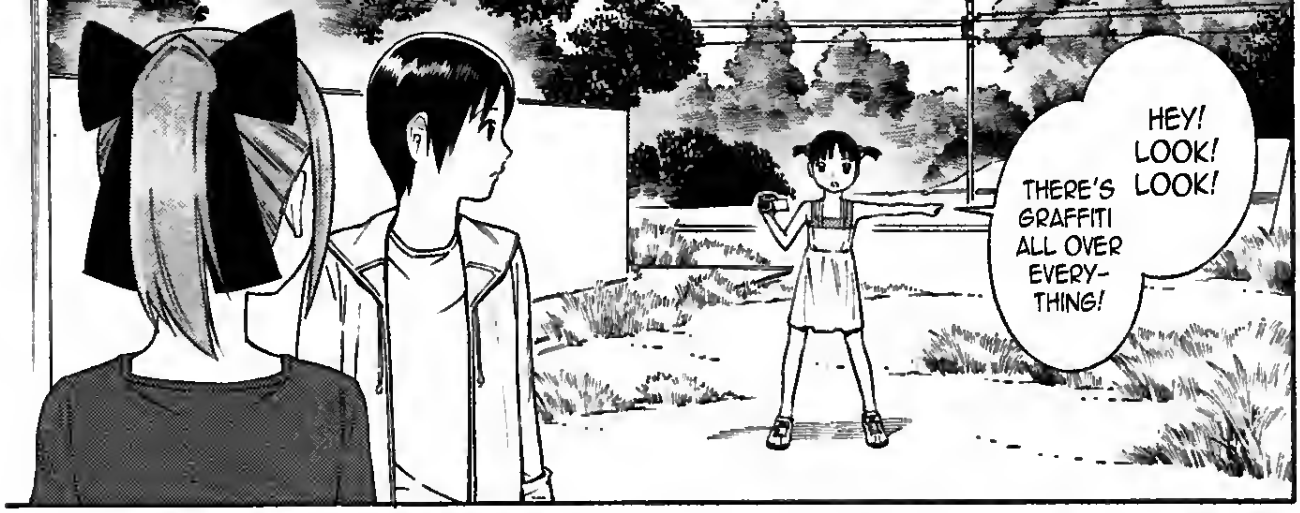


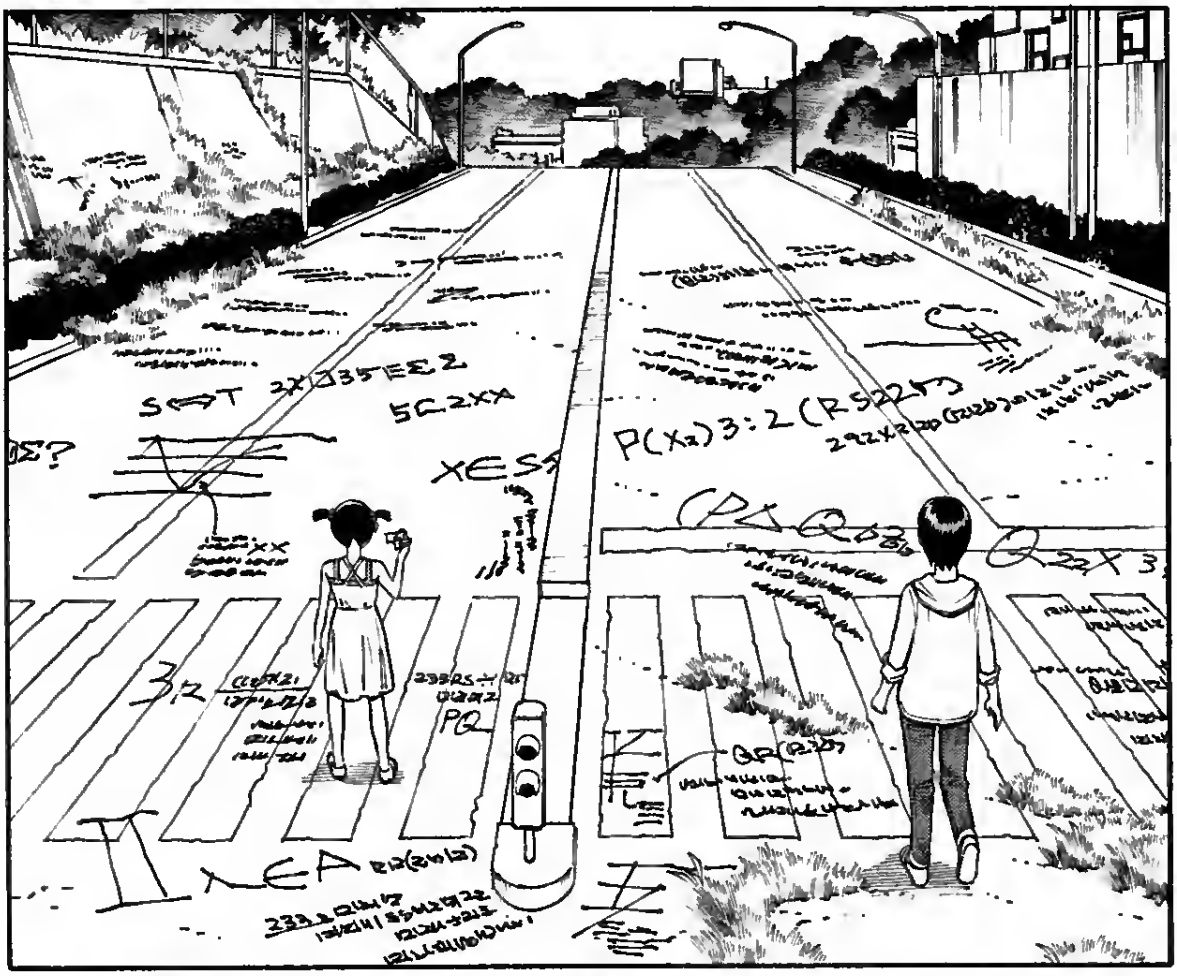
YAEKO! WHAT KIND OF GRADES THESE?
DON'T YOU WANT TO SUCCEED THE FAMILY BUSI-NESS!?
IS IT ALSO TRUE YOU'VE BEEN SKIPPING CRAM SCHOOL* AGAIN?



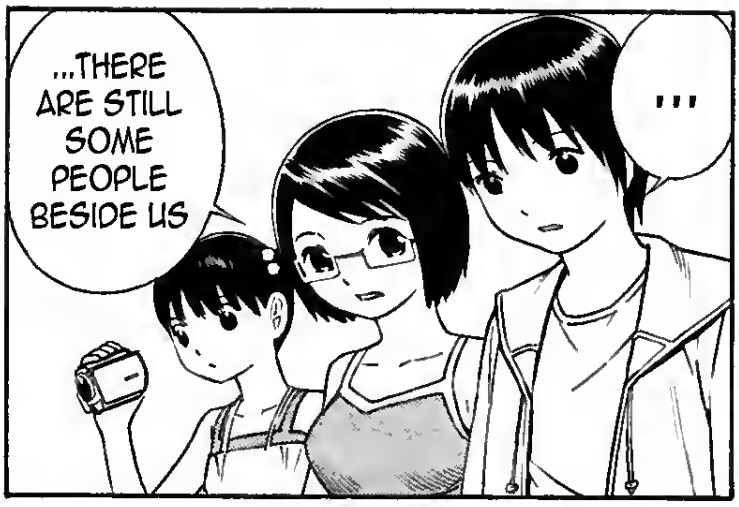


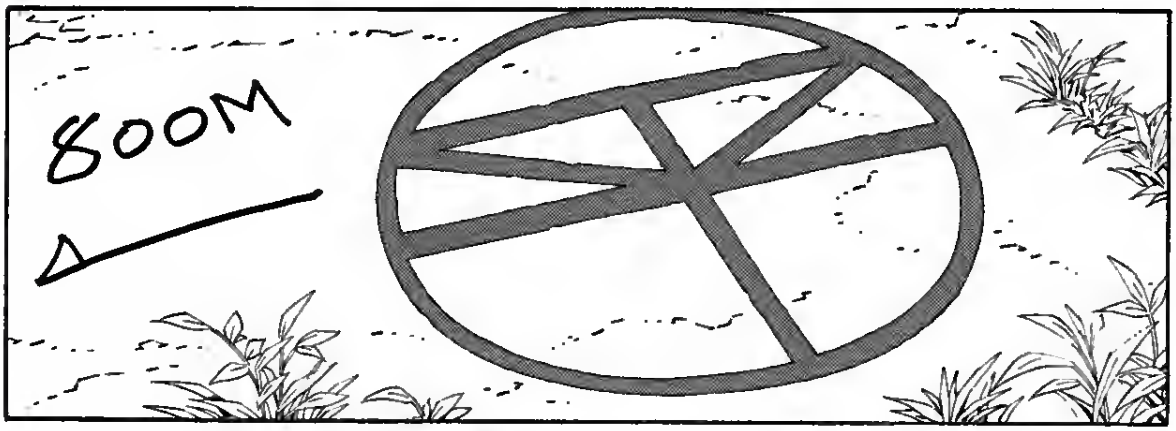
TN: CRAM SCHOOL IS PREPARATORY SCHOOLING THAT SOME STUDENTS IN JAPAN ATTEND AFTER REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS. ALSO, THIS PAGE IS A GOLD MINE FOR CULTURE NOTES SEE BACK TNS FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CRAM SCHOOL, JAPANESEHIGH SOCIETY, AND AN ASIDE ABOUT TRADITIONAL JAPANESE HOUSING.

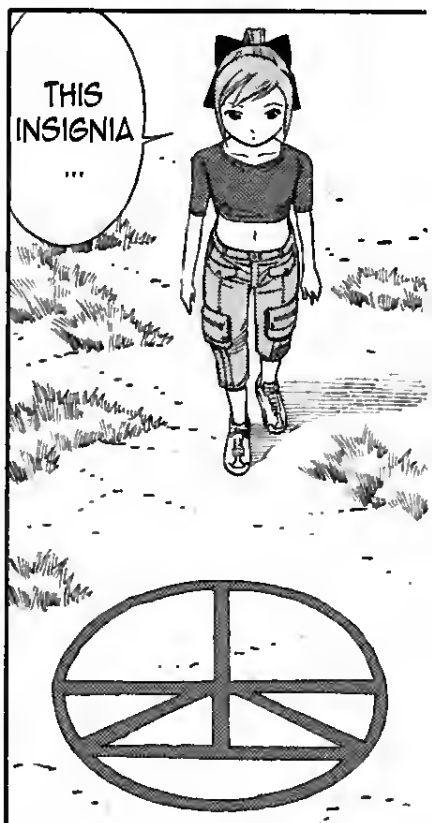

HEY! LOOK! LOOK!
THERE'S GRAFFITI ALL OVER EVERY-THING!



THIS MEANS...



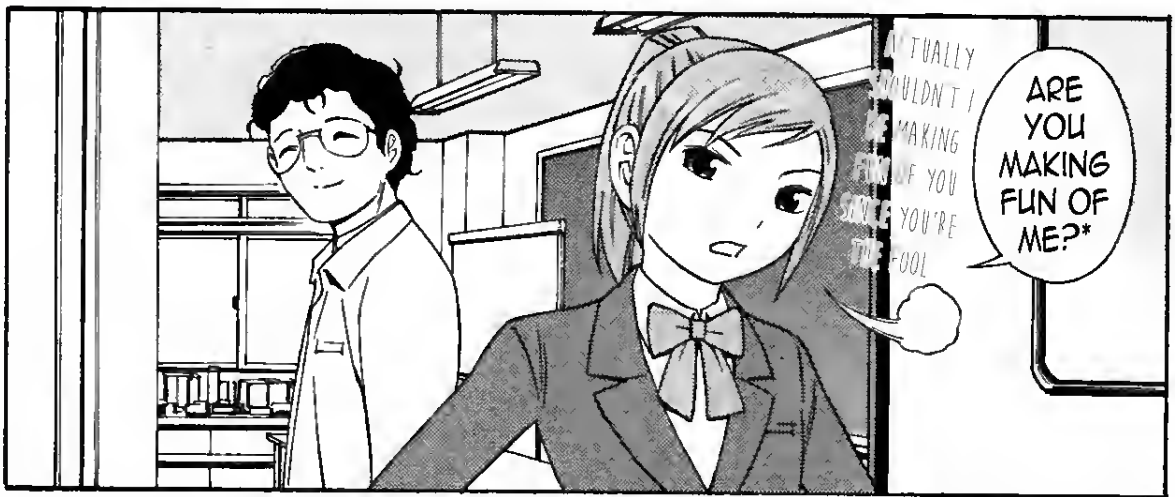




TN: FOR THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW, "SENSEI" IS A RESPECTFUL TERM FOR TEACHERS AND PROFESSORS REGARDLESS OF THEIR PROFESSION. IT CAN BE ATTACHED AS A SUFFIX TO THE END OF A TEACHER'S NAME OR USED AS PRONOUN AS YAEKO DOES HERE. UNLIKE STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES, WHO MAY LATER CALL THEIR TEACHERS BY FIRST NAME AFTER GRADUATION, JAPANESE STUDENTS CONTINUE TO CALL THEIR TEACHERS SENSEI FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIFE. SEE BACK TNS FOR MORE ABOUT THE WORD "SENSEI"

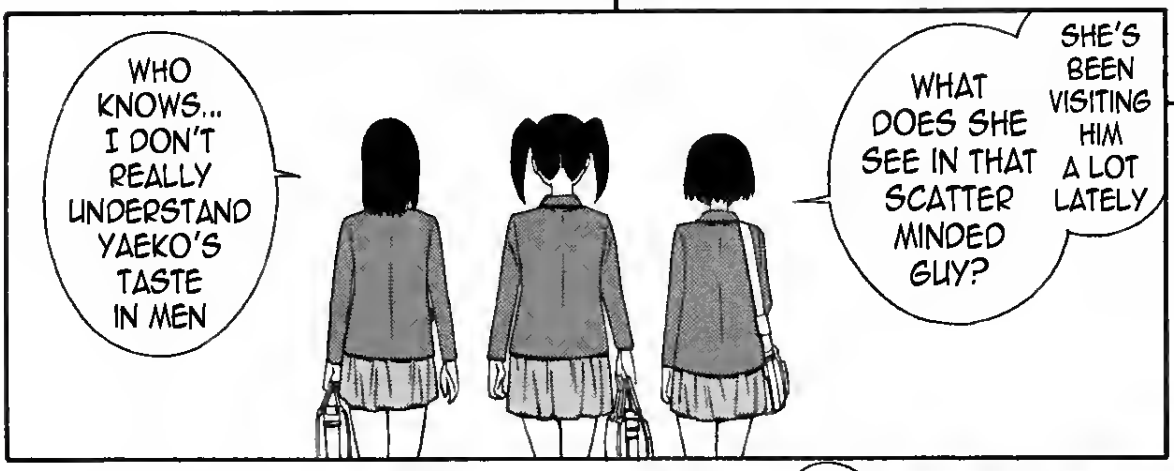
Clatter Clang
OOOOF!!
HIRAKAWA-SENSEI FELL FOR YAEKO'S BUCKET BLOCKADE AGAIN!
AHAHAHAHA
OWW
HA HA HA ...
YOU REALLY SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO WHERE YOU'RE WALKING

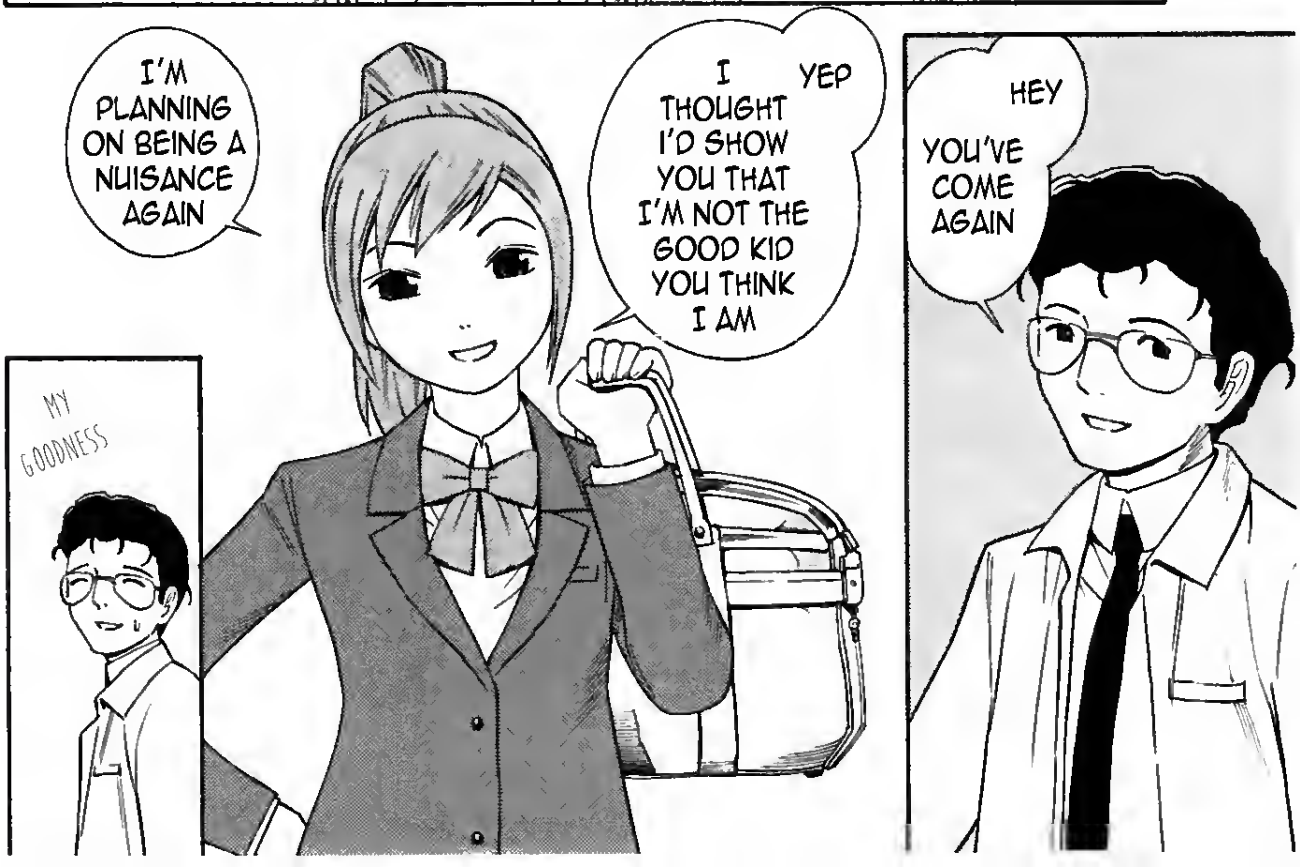
SFX: THE SOUNDS IN THE UPPER RIGHT PANEL ARE THE NOTES FOR THE WESTMINSTER QUARTERS, WHICH SIGNAL THE START OR END OF CLASS PERIODS IN JAPANESE SCHOOLS. READ MORE ABOUT IT IN THE TNS IN THE BACK.



13 TN: JAPANESE USE THE PHRASE "BAKA MITAI" TO SAY THAT PEOPLE ARE MAKING FUN OF THEM. LITERALLY, IT MEANS "DO I LOOK LIKE A FOOL/IDIOT." THIS IS WHY I TRANSLATED HER AS SAYING "ACTUALLY, SHOULDN'T I BE MAKING FUN OF YOU SINCE YOU'RE THE FOOL." REALLY SHE SAYS, "AREN'T YOU REALLY THE FOOL?" WHICH IS A RESPONSE TO HER EARLIER COMMENT "DO I LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT?" HOWEVER, IN ENGLISH, "ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME" MAKES MORE SENSE IN THIS CONTEXT.

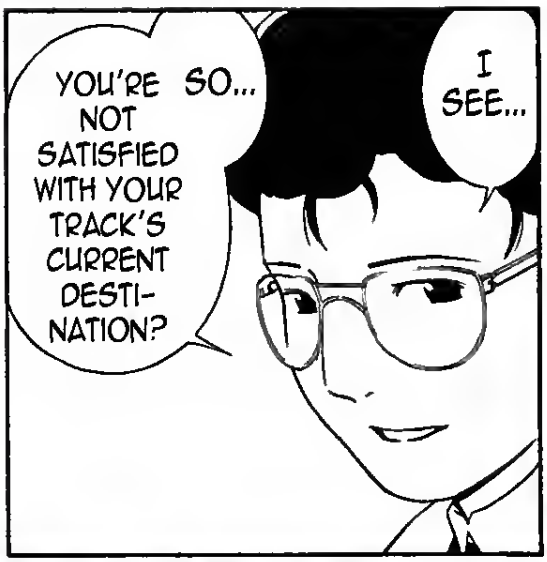
TN: "FIGHT ON" IS A COMMON PHRASE CHANTED BY JAPANESE STUDENTS OR ATHLETES TO BOOST MORALE WHEN RUNNING. IT IS DERIVED DIRECTLY FROM THE ENGLISH PHRASE AND PRONOUNCED THE SAME IN JAPANESE.


WHO KNOWS... I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND YAEKO'S TASTE IN MEN
WHAT DOES SHE SEE IN THAT SCATTER MINDED GUY?
SHE'S BEEN VISITING HIM A LOT LATELY

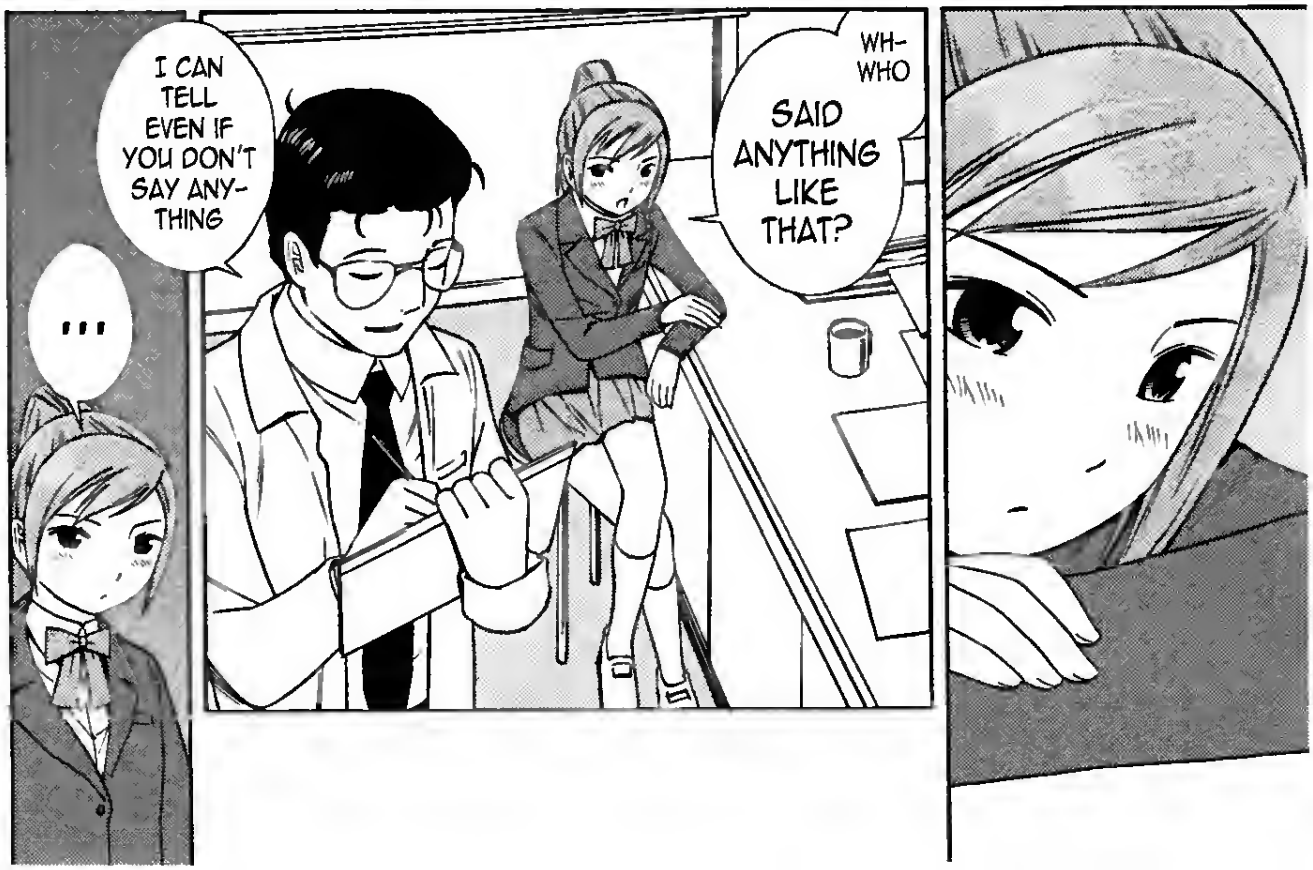

I'M PLANNING ON BEING A NUISANCE AGAIN
I THOUGHT I'D SHOW YOU THAT I'M NOT THE GOOD KID YOU THINK I AM
YEP
MY GOODNESS
HEY YOU'VE COME AGAIN

IT MUST BE FUN BEING A TEACHER
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT
...
THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE
ARE YOU HAVING FUN
WHAT?

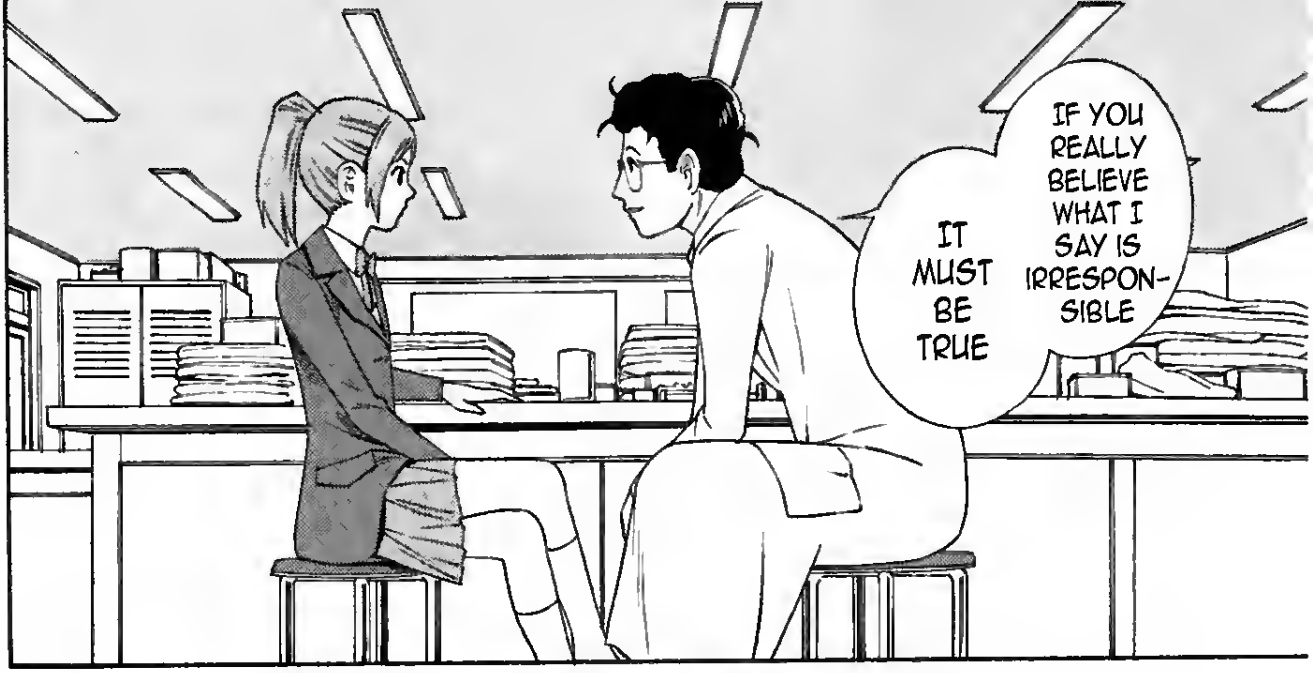
YOU SEE... I ACTUALLY WANTED TO CONTINUE MY RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY, BUT BY MY PROFESS-OR'S
ORDER, I WAS FORCED TO BECOME A TEMPORARY HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER, SO IT'S NOT REALLY LIKE I GET TO DO WHATEVER I WANT


I SEE...
YOU'RE SO... NOT SATISFIED WITH YOUR TRACK'S CURRENT DESTI-NATION?

BUT AT THE BEGINNING YOU WERE ABLE TO CHOOSE YOUR OWN PATH, RIGHT?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU WERE FORCED ONTO A SINGLE TRACK FROM THE VERY BEGINNING


WH-WHO SAID ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
I CAN TELL EVEN IF YOU DON'T SAY ANY-THING
...

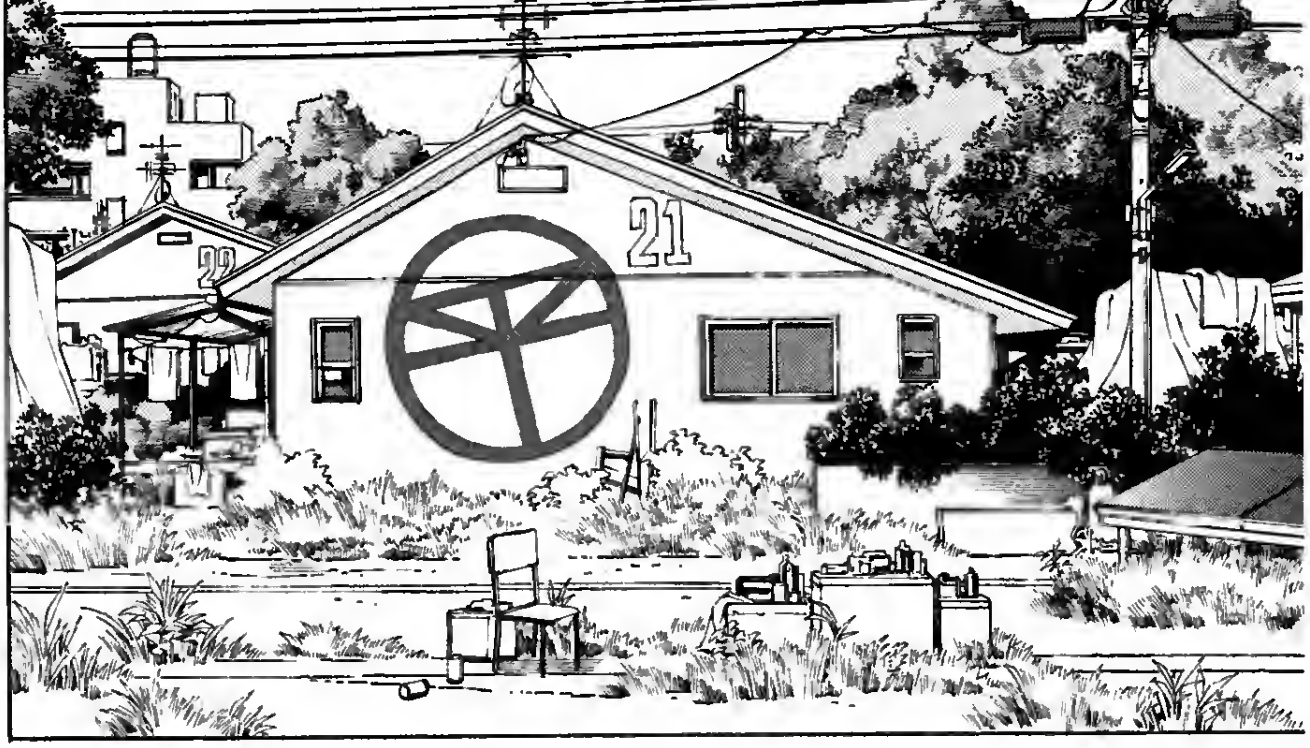
...BUT ONLY YOU CAN DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO DO IT
I THINK YOU SHOULD TRY...
IF YOU WANT TO ESCAPE FROM YOUR TRACK
...YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME...
DON'T SAY IRRES-PONSIBLE THINGS WHEN...
HOW CAN YOU GIVE SUCH SELF-IMPORTANT ADVICE?
!
Ga-tan

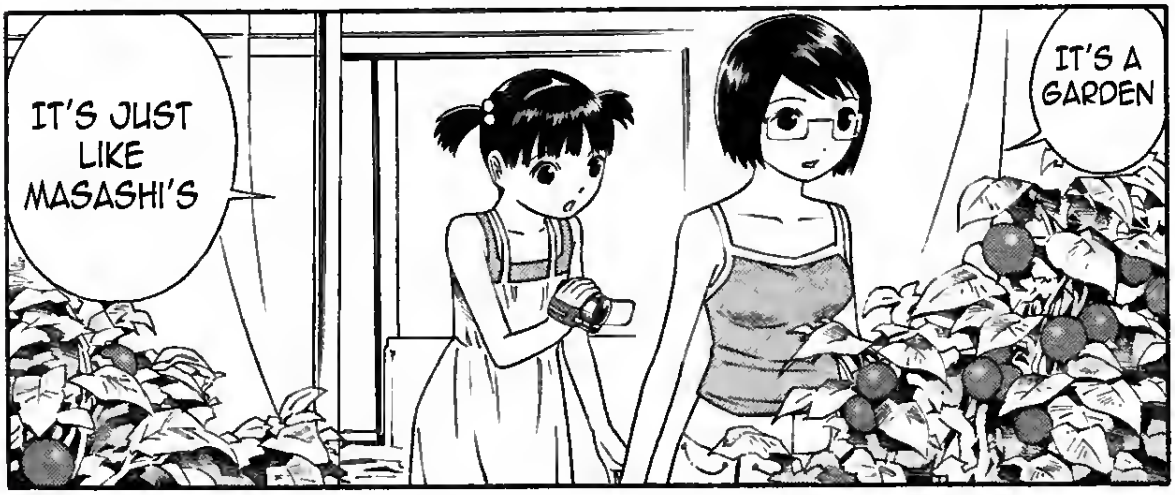

IF YOU REALLY BELIEVE WHAT I SAY IS IRRESPONSIBLE
IT MUST BE TRUE

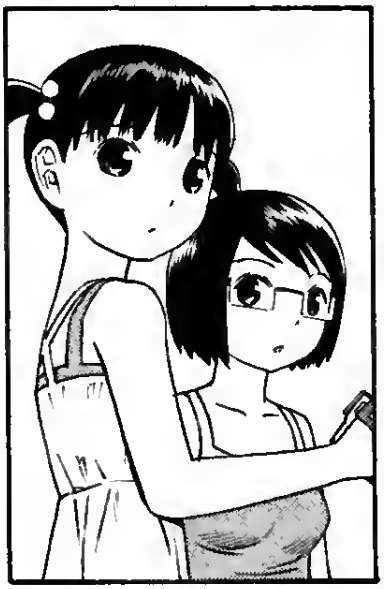
HOWEVER, IF YOU WANT TO ESCAPE YOUR CURRENT TRACK, I HOPE THAT YOU'LL TRY
IF YOU DO, SOMETHING INSIDE YOU WILL CERTAINLY CHANGE
I ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEE IT

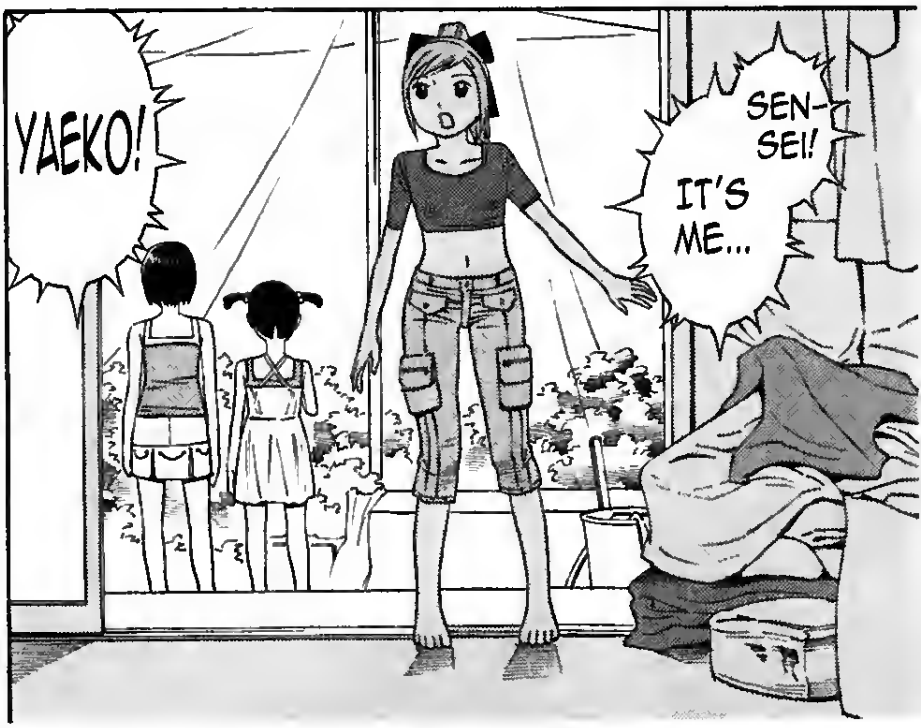
HOWEVER...
IT MUST BE YOU WHO DECIDES TO CHANGE, OR YOU WON'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING

I'M NOT A GOOD KID!
LIKE I KEEP SAYING L-
YOU REALLY ARE A GOOD KID
WELL WELL I THINK YOU'RE MISTAKEN AFTER ALL
AFTER ALL... I BEGAN WALKING TEN YEARS BEFORE YOU WERE EVEN BORN
YOU CAN'T DECEIVE THE EYES OF AN ADULT
NO NO NO...
SOMETIMES IT CAN BE DIFFICULT FOR CHILDREN TO OVERCOME THAT HEAD START START AND UNDERSTAND AN ADULT'S LOGIC
WHAT THE HELL'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!
YOU REALLY DO PISS ME OFF!
HA HA HA


22
21


IT'S JUST LIKE MASASHI'S
IT'S A GARDEN



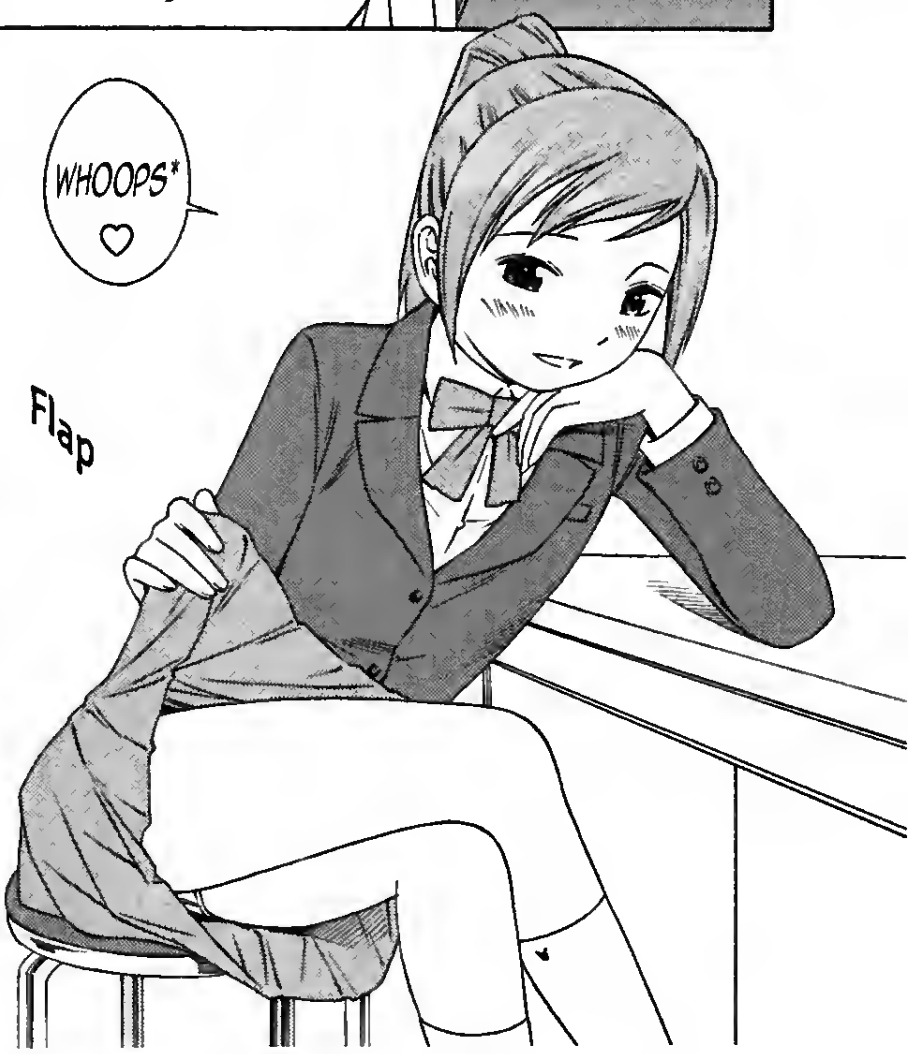

YAEKO!
SEN-SEI!
IT'S ME...

MASA-SHI...
BANG
SENSEI!
I FOUND A JOURNAL, BUT...
THE LAST ENTRY WAS WRITTEN TWO WEEKS AGO
IT'S DEFIN-ITELY SENSEI'S WRIT-ING
I'M SORRY TO SAY THIS, BUT...
MOST LIKELY TWO WEEKS AGO...

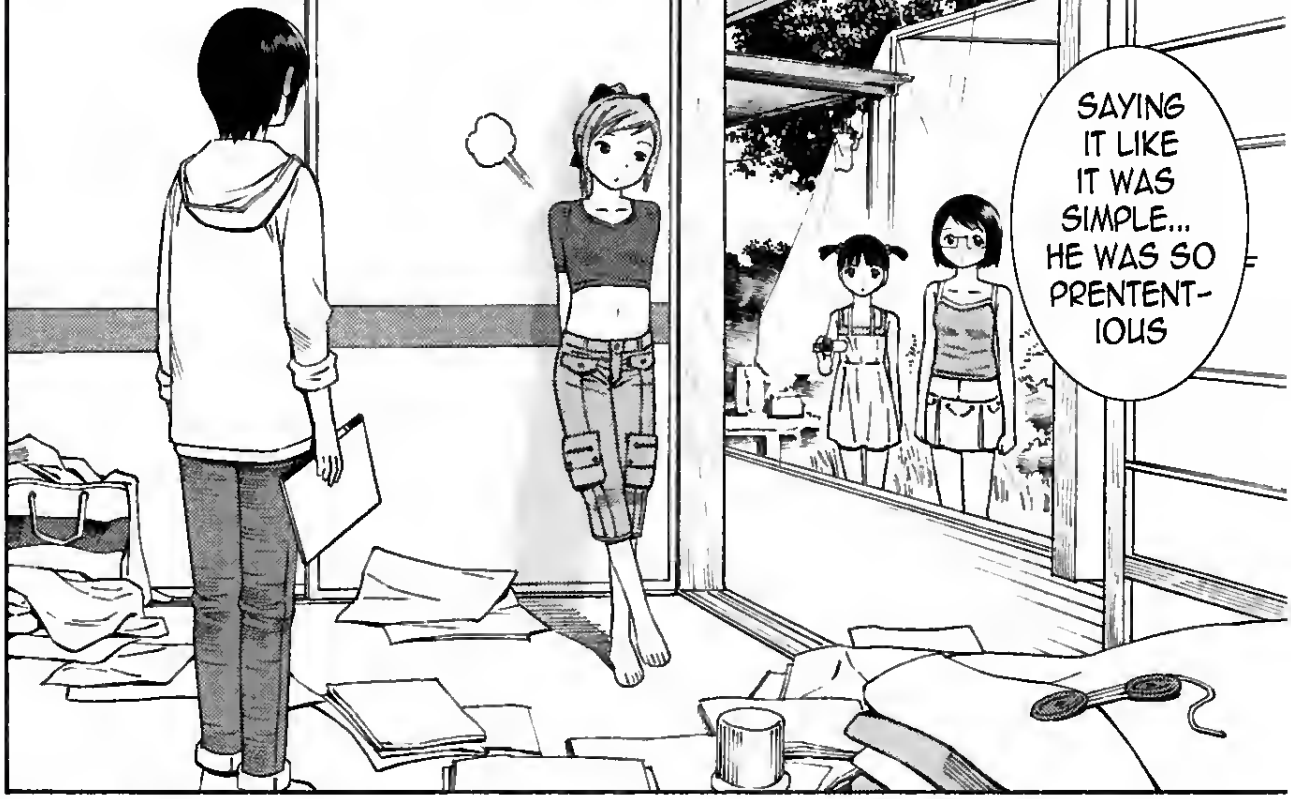
IF THAT WERE TRUE, SHOULDN'T HE HAVE TAKEN HIS JOURNAL WITH HIM?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
COULDN'T HE HAVE JUST LEFT THE HOUSE FOR A BIT?
YOU KNOW.. LIKE TO GO LOOK FOR MORE PEOPLE
WELL...
ALSO... LOOK AT THE FINAL JOURNAL ENTRY
THE FINAL ENTRY...?
phantom
jump into

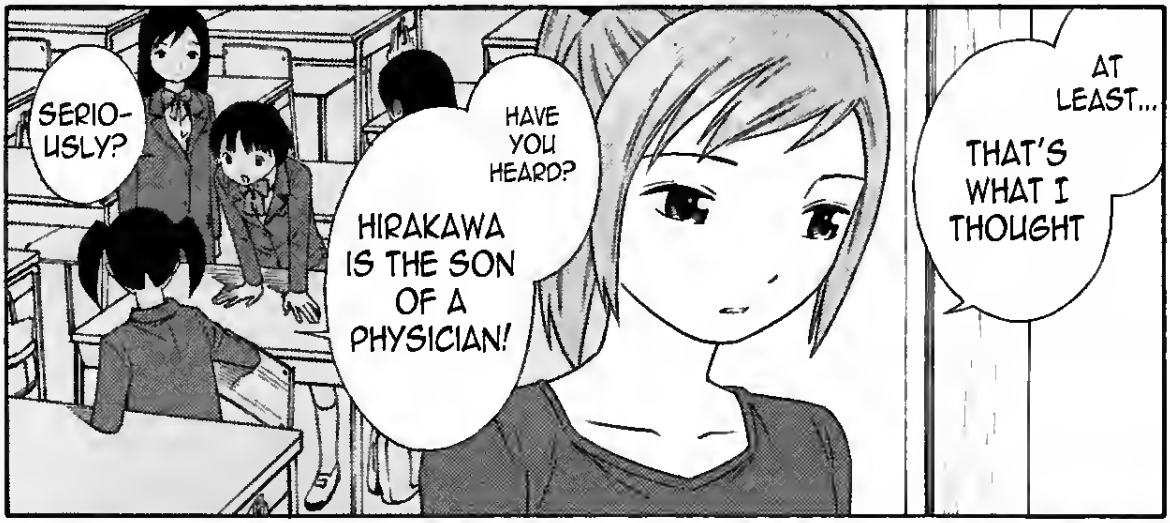
phantom
jump into
reach the other side?

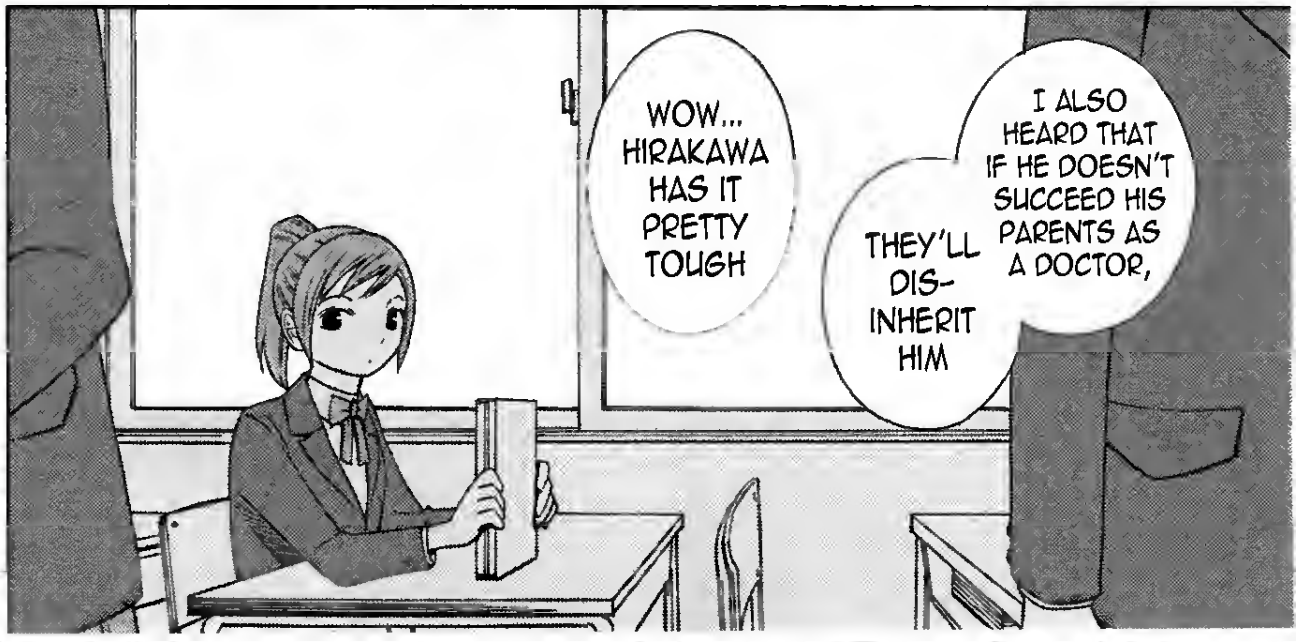
TN: THIS PANEL IS A LITTLE HARD TO EXPLAIN. WHAT SHE ACTUALLY SAYS IS "CHIRARI" (ちら), WHICH MEANS "GLIMPSE". IT'S OBIVOUS THAT YAEKO WANTS TO ELICIT SOME KIND OF REACTION FROM HIRAKAWA-SENSEI, BUT IN NO WAY IS SHE TRYING TO INITIATE ANYTHING SEXUAL. LIKELY SHE WANTS TO STARTLE HIM SO THAT SHE CAN GET IS ATTENTION. SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE IF HIS ATTENTION COMES IN THE FORM OF SOLID LECTURING, LIFE ADVICE, OR COMPLAINTS.



YOU CAN ALSO DO THAT IF YOU WANT...
ACTUALLY... I THINK I'LL JUST GIVE UP
ONLY YOU CAN DECIDE WHAT IT IS YOU WANT
WHAT THE HELL...
IF YOU DO BELIEVE YOU CAN, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO... IT'S ALL IN YOUR MIND
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN ESCAPE YOUR CURRENT TRACK, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO

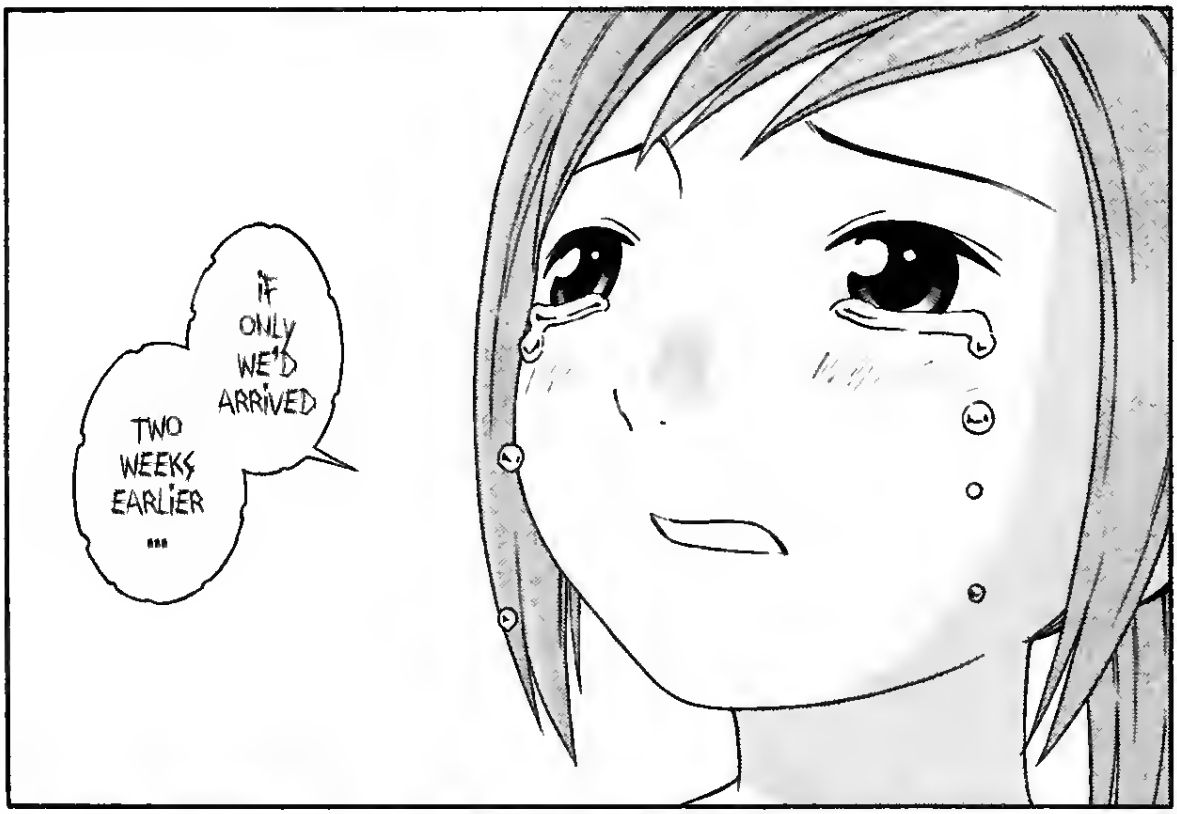

SAYING IT LIKE IT WAS SIMPLE... HE WAS SO PRENTENT-IOUS


SERIO-USLY?
HAVE YOU HEARD?
HIRAKAWA IS THE SON OF A PHYSICIAN!
AT LEAST...
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT

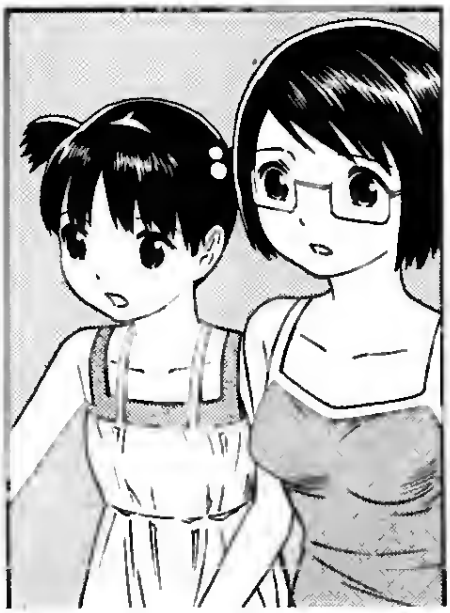

WOW... HIRAKAWA HAS IT PRETTY TOUGH
I ALSO HEARD THAT IF HE DOESN'T SUCCEED HIS PARENTS AS A DOCTOR,
THEY'LL DIS-INHERIT HIM

YAEKO-CHAN...
ALL RIGHT LET'S GO
Chiriri~n
SENSEI ALWAYS MADE HIS OWN DECISIONS
IF HE HAD CONFI-DENCE IN HIS REASON ING,
I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HIM TO HAVE PLUNGED HEAD FIRST INTO A PHANTOM
HE PISSED ME OFF UNTIL THE VERY END!
IF ONLY WE HAD ARRIVED TWO WEEKS EARLIER...
EVEN THOUGH SENSEI WAS ALWAYS SMILING...

...HE ACTUALLY HAD IT REALLY TOUGH, BUT
I NEVER HAD TO DO ANY-THING BECAUSE THE TRACK I WAS FORCED ONTO DISAPP-EARED WITH EVERY-ONE ELSE
SERVES YOU RIGHT!*... IS WHAT I WANT TO SAY, BUT...



TN: SHE IS SAYING "SERVES YOU RIGHT" TO THE FACT THAT HE ACTUALLY HAD TO DEAL WITH HIS PROBLEM, WHILE YAEKO NEVER HAD TO SINCE IT DISAPPEARERED WHEN THE PHANTOMS APPEARED



WAAAAA
AAAAAAA
Chiriri~n

IT'S NOT LIKE I LOVED HIM, BUT...
IT'S NOT LIKE I LOVED HIM
DID YOU, UHM... LOVE HIRA-KAWA-SEN-SEI?
Snore

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT MEET SUCH AN ECCENTRIC PERSON, BUT*...
TO ME HE WAS... SOMEONE WHO IMMERSED HIMSELF IN THE THINGS HE LOVED
WITHOUT PAYING ANY ATTENTION TO THE BEAUTIFUL GIRLS SURROUNDING HIM

TN: THE WAY YAEKO SAYS THIS IN JAPANESE MAKES IT SEEM THAT SHE COULD BE TALKING ABOUT HIRAKAWA-SENSEI, BUT WHAT SHE REALLY MEANS IS THAT SHE NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D FIND ANOTHER PERSON AS ECCENTRIC AS HIRAKAWA-SENSEI. THIS IS WHY SANAE DOESN'T IMMEDIATELY CATCH ON THAT YAEKO IS THINKING ABOUT MASASHI.

UH...
WHICH ?
HM?
WHICH ONE?
ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T LOVE HIM?
UHM... NO ONE REALLY
WHO EXACTLY ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
YES! IT'S NO ONE!
ARE YOU SURE IT'S "NO ONE"?

TRANSLATION NOTES

JAPANESE TRADITIONAL HOUSING AND STATUS (P4) - FOR THOS WHO DIDN'T READ MY PREVIOUS TANGENT ABOUT TRADITIONAL JAPANESE HOUSES IN THE LAST VOLUME, DUE TO THE AMOUNT OF SPACE THAT TRADITIONAL JAPANESE HOUSES OCCUPY, PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THEM TEND TO BE QUITE WELL-OFF. WHENEVER SOMEONE LIVES IN ONE OF THESE HOUSES, THINK "POWER ELITE" OR UPPER CLASS OF THE UNITED STATES. THE COMBINED FAMILY INCOME OF THESE INDIVIDIDUALS WILL NORTH OF A FEW MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR AND FAMILY MEMBERS TEND TO HOLD PROMINENT POSITIONS IN SOCIETY AS POLITICIANS OR THE EXECUTIVES OF LARGE CORPORATIONS.

吉富昭仁

SANAE'S PHRASING OF "SUPER RICH FAMILY" (P 4) - ON THIS PAGE, SANAE SAYS "IITOKO NO OJOU-SAMA". "IITOKO" LITERALLY MEANS "GOOD FAMILY". IN THIS CASE, IT REFERS TO A FAMILY THAT IS WELL-ESTABLISHED IN SOCIETY AND OFTEN IS WEALTHY. "OJOU-SAMA" IS A POLITE WAY OF ADDRESSING A RICH YOUNG GIRL FROM SUCH A FAMILY. TOGETHER THESE WORDS SUCH SOMEONE WHO GREW UP WEALTHY WITHOUT CONCERN FOR MONEY.

JAPANESE HIGH SOCIETY AND WEALTH (P 5) - IN JAPAN, MANY BUSINESSES ARE FOUNDED AND OFTEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS. AS AN EXAMPLE, THE OLDEST COMPANY IN THE WORLD THAT IS STILL OWNED BY ITS ORIGINAL FOUNDING FAMILY IS THE NISHIYAMA ONSEN KEIUNKAN (西山温泉慶雲館). IT IS A JAPANESE HOT SPRING HOTEL THAT WAS FOUNDED IN 705AD AND HAS OPERATED UNDER THE SAME FAMILY FOR 52 GENERATIONS.

YAEKO IS IN SUCH A SITUATION WHERE SHE IS EXPECTED BY HER PARENTS TO INHERIT THE FAMILY BUSINESS. HOWEVER, TO DO SO SHE HAS TO PROVE HER COMPETENCE THROUGH PERFECTION. RICH FAMILIES OR FAMILIES OF EMINENCE IN SOCIETY, SUCH AS YAEKO'S, OFTEN EXPECT STRICT MORALE BEHAVIOR, EXCELLENT SCHOOL GRADES, AND OBEDIENCE FROM THEIR CHILDREN. ADHERING TO SUCH FAMILY VALUES MAKES ONE A "GOOD KID" WHICH IS WHY YAEKO REPEATEDLY REFUTES HIRAKAWA-SENSEI WHEN HE CALLS HER THIS. HOWEVER, HIRAKAWA-SENSEI IS NOT ACTUALLY ACKNOWLEDGING HER FROM A FAMILIAL PERSPECTIVE. THOUGH INDIVIDUALS FROM THE UNITED STATES MIGHT SAY THAT ONE IS A "GOOD KID", THEY MIGHT ALSO SIMILARY SAY "YOU HAVE A GOOD HEART" OR "YOUR HEART IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE" TO REFER TO THEM BEING OF UPSTANDING MORALE CHARACTER. I CHOSE TO KEEP IT "GOOD KID" SINCE SHE IS OBVIOUSLY CONFUSING THE FACT THAT ONE CAN REBEL AGAINST THEIR PARENTS MAKING THEM A "BAD KID" BUT ALSO BE A GOOD PERSON MAKING THEM A "GOOD KID".

FOR THOSE WHO PREVIOUSLY READ ABOUT TRADITIONAL HOUSES IN VOLUME 1, THE NUMEROUS RECTANGULAR DOORS THAT SEPARATE THE ROOMS BEHIND YAEKO ON PAGE 5 ARE THE FUSUMA (襖) I DISCUSSED.

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TRANSLATION NOTES

CRAM SCHOOL (P5) - GAKUSHUU JUKU (学習塾), OR JUKU (塾) FOR SHORT, REFER TO CRAMS SCHOOLS. CRAM SCHOOL IS A CONCEPT UNIQUE TO STUDENTS OF ASIA AND IS FAMILIAR TO JAPANESE STUDENTS. IT IS SCHOOLING AFTER REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS AND HELP STUDENTS WITH A VARIETY OF ACADEMIC ISSUES. MANY SERVE AS PREPARATORY SCHOOLS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS, SOME SERVE TO SUPPLEMENT REGULAR EDUCATION, AND SOME SERVE AS REMEDIAL SCHOOLING TO HELP DROPOUTS RETURN TO THE ACADEMIC WORLD.

CRAM SCHOOLS ARE NOT MANDATORY, SO THERE IS TYPICALLY A FEE OF ~$3,000 - $4,000 ANNUALLY. THOUGH NOT REQUIRED, IT IS OFTEN VEIWED AS AN EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR PREPARING FOR EXAMS. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE COST, UPPER MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES TEND TO BE THE ONES WHO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO THESE INSTITUTIONS. CURRENTLY, THE DECREASING NUMBER OF BIRTHS IN JAPAN HAS INJURED THE JUKU BUSINESS, SO TRADITIONAL TEACHING METHODS ARE BEING ABANDONED FOR INDIVIDUAL TUTORING.

SENSEI (P 7) - AS MENTIONED ON PAGE 7, SENSEI CAN REFER TO ANYONE WHO SERVES AS A TEACHER TO ANOTHER AND THEY NEED NOT BE PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS. FOR EXAMPLE, A TUTOR MAY BE CALLED SENSEI BY HER/HIS TUTEE. A SUPERIOR IN THE WORK ENVIRONMENT WHO DOUBLES AS A MENTOR MAY ASLO BE CALLED SENSEI. WESTERNERS PROBABLY BEST KNOW THE EXAMPLE OF SENSEI BEING USED IS FOR MARTIAL ARTS INSTRUCTORS.

SENSEI CAN ALSO BE USED IRONICALLY. IF SOMEONE ARROGANTLY STATES THEIR IDEALS AS IF TO EDUCATE ANOTHER, SOMEONE MAY CALL THEM SENSEI. NOTE THAT YAEKO ACTUALLY CALLS HIRAKAWA SENSEI BECAUSE SHE ACKNOWLEDGES HIS PROWESS AS A TEACHER. CONVERSELY, REFERRING TO YOUR TEACH BY NAME INSTEAD OF SENSEI, OR NOT APPENDING SENSEI AS A SUFFIX (EVEN IF YOU ARE TALKING TO SOMEONE ELSE ABOUT THEM) IS CONSIDERED DISRESPECTFUL AND RUDE. IT SUGGESTS THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO TEACH YOU ANYTHING. THIS IS WHAT SOME OF THE STUDENTS DO ON PAGE 23. IT'S UNLIKELY THEY ACTUALLY THINK THAT HIRAKAWA-SENSEI CANNOT TEACH HIM ANYTHING AND MORE LIKELY THEY JUST DON'T RESPECT HIM.

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TRANSLATION NOTES

WESTMINSTER QUARTERS (P9) - THE WESTMINSTER QUARTERS ORIGINATED FROM THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE GREAT IN CAMBRIDGE. ACCORDING TO A JAPANESE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL TEXT, AIR RAID SIRENS WERE ONCE USED TO SIGNAL THE START AND END OF CLASS PERIODS IN THE JAPAN. HOWEVER, AFTER WORLD WAR II, THIS WAS TRAUMATIZING TO THE STUDENTS. AS A RESULT, THE WESTMINSTER CHIME REPLACED THE SIREN AFTER THE WAR. IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS SOUNDS LIKE, YOU CAN GOT TO YOUTUBE AND ENTER "JAPANESE SCHOOL BELLS" TO LISTEN TO A SOUND SAMPLE.

THE WHOLE QUARTERS IN THE CORRECT ORDER FROM THE ABOVE PANEL ARE WRITTEN HERE (FOR THOSE WHO ARE MUSICALLY INCLINED, IT SHOULD BE IN THE KEY OF E MAJOR, BUT THIS FONT PREVENTS ME FROM WRITING THIS KEY, SO INSTEAD I HAVE WRITTEN THE NOTES AS ACCIDENTALS IN C MAJOR):

YAEKO USING "PISSED OFF" (P16 ONWARD) - YAEKO IS USING THE JAPANESE WORD "MUKATSUKU" (ムカつく), WHICH LITERALLY TRANSLATES AS "I FEEL ANGRY" OR "I AM IRRITATED". WHILE THIS IS COMPLETELY NATURAL SOUNDING IN JAPANESE, IN ENGLISH IT SOUNDS ODD, SO I TRANSLATED IT AS "TO BE PISSED OFF". I CHOSE THIS BECAUSE "MUKATSUKU" IS NOT A POLITE WAY OF EXPRESSING IRRITATION.

GLIMPSE VS WHOOPS (P 21) - WHAT YAEKO ACTUALLY SAYS IS "CHIRARI" (ちらり), WHICH MEANS "GLIMPSE". IN ENGLISH, THIS DOESN'T REALLY MAKE SENSE, SO I CHANGED IT TO WHOOPS TO IMPROVE THE UNDERSTANDING. INTERESTINGLY, THERE IS A PARTICULAR WORD IN JAPANESE "CHIRARIZUMU" (ちらリズム), WHICH DESCRIBES THE ART OF GIVNG A BRIEF GLIMPSE OF SOMETHING. OFTEN THIS GLIMPSE IS OF SKIN OR UNDERWEAR. IT CAN BE SEXUAL IN NATURE OR PLAYFUL. HERE, YAEKO DOES IT PLAYFULLY. SHE IS LIKELY TRYING TO STARTLE HIRAKAWA-SENSEI.

PHYSICIANS IN JAPAN (P23) - PHYSCIANS (DOCTORS OF MEDICINE) ARE VIEWED WITH A GREAT DEAL OF RESPECT IN JAPAN. THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE FAIRLY INTERESTING TO FIND THAT ONE OF YOUR PROFESSORS IS THE SON OF TWO DOCTORS AND IS NOT ACTUALLY PURSUING A MEDICAL DEGREE AS WELL.

I CHOSE THE WORD "PHYSICIAN" SO THAT I WOULDN'T CONFUSE ANYONE. HIRAKAWA-SENSEI IS PERSUING A PH.D. AND NOT AN M.D., SO HE *IS* DISOBEYING HIS PARENTS. UNLIKE ENLGLISH WHERE THE THE WORD "DOCTOR" CAN BE USED TO REFER TO BOTH DOCTORS OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.) AND DOCTORS OF MEDICINE (M.D.), JAPANESE HAVE TWO DISTINCT WORDS THAT DESCRIBE THESE PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS AND ONE CANNOT BE USED TO DESCRIBE THE OTHER. AS A RESULT, IF I HAD TRANSLATED IT TO DOCTORS, SOME MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT HE WAS ACTUALLY FOLLOWING IN HIS PARENTS' FOOTSTEPS.

Thank you for waiting for the first chapter of volume 2. I ran into a little bit of trouble this week. First, due to the general pacing of this chapter, it was difficult to build a good rhythm. There are lot of things in this chapter that read fluently in Japanese, but were choppy or disconnected when translated into English. As a result, I spent a great deal of timing trying to make it read more smootly. Second, my computer has been giving me some problems lately and I lost some of my translation for this chapter, so I had to go back and translate it and smoothen the conversation again. As a result of these two things, it took longer to release than expected. This chapter has a lot of translation and cultural notes, so if you enjoy them, rejoice! As for when the next chaper will be out. It will likely be in five days.

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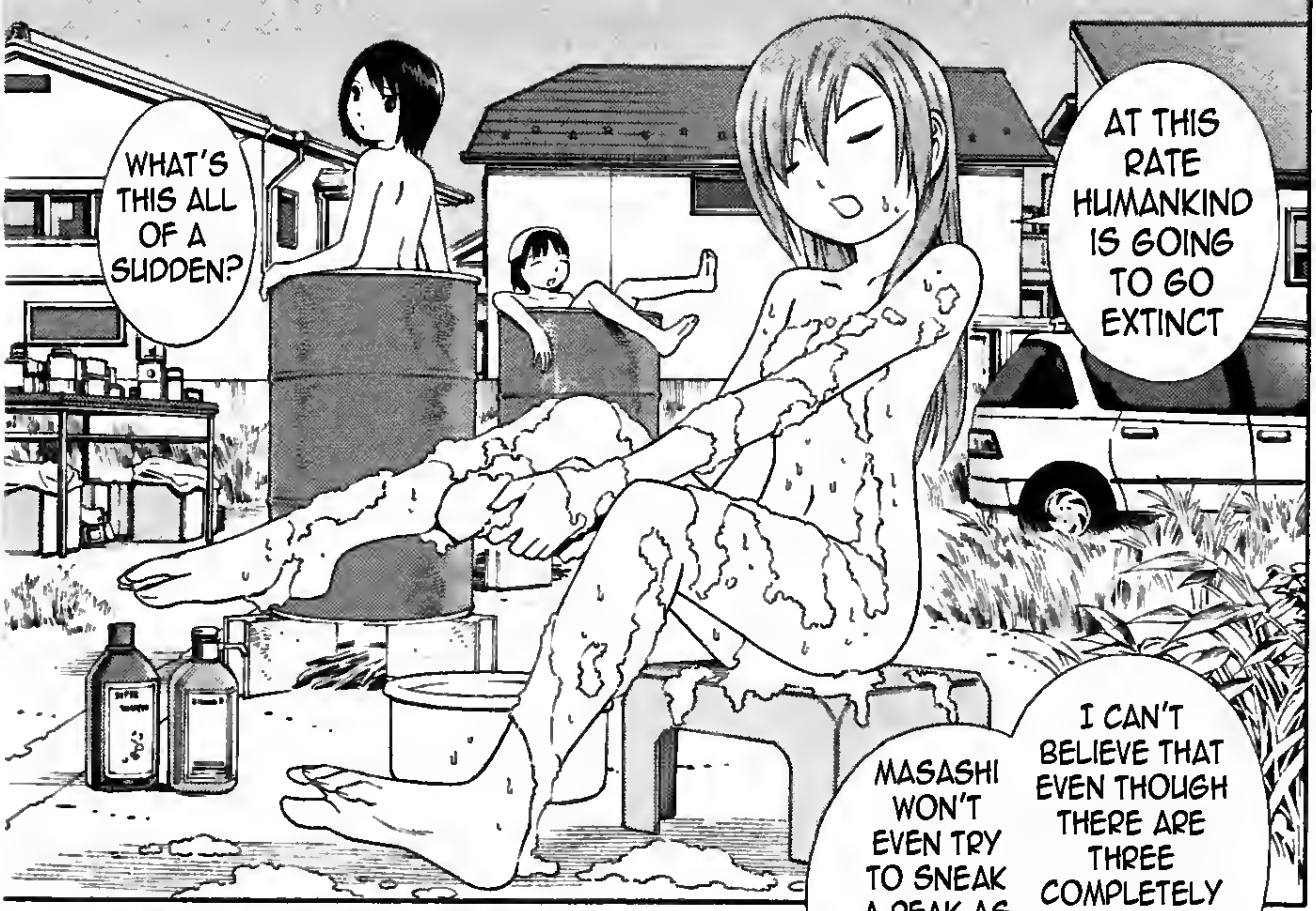
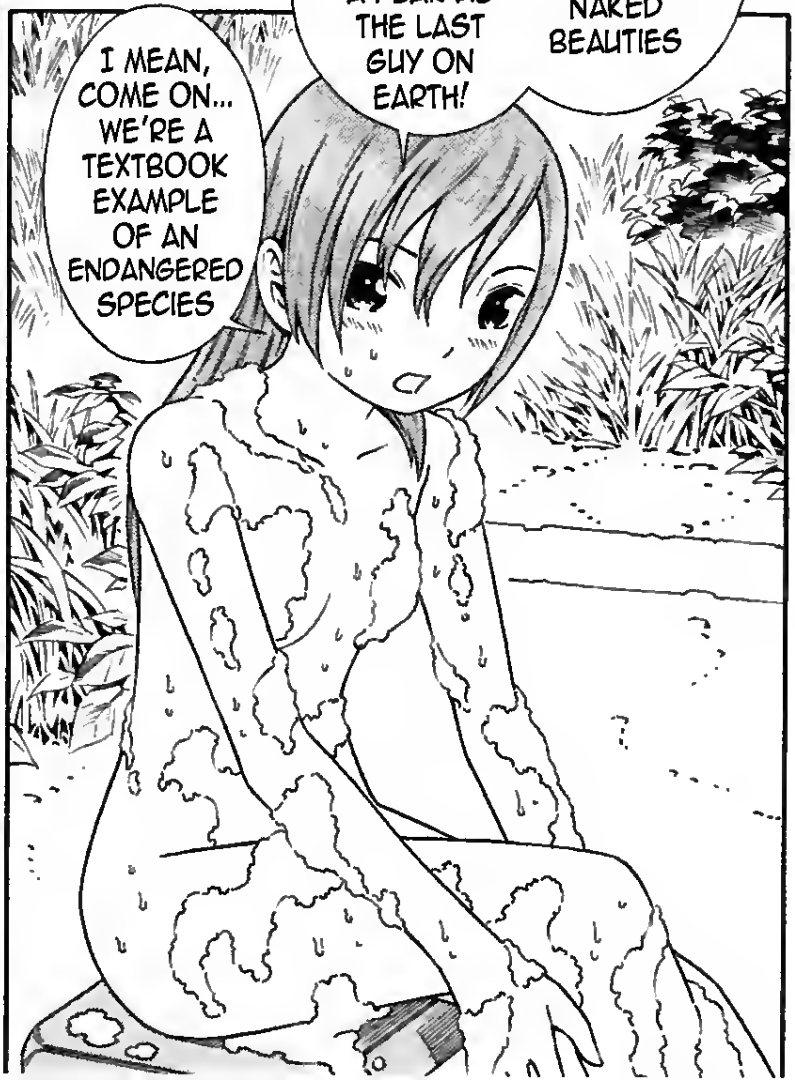



I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE THREE COMPLETELY NAKED BEAUTIES
MASASHI WON'T EVEN TRY TO SNEAK A PEAK AS THE LAST GUY ON EARTH!
I MEAN, COME ON... WE'RE A TEXTBOOK EXAMPLE OF AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

AFTER8 / Earth's Companions

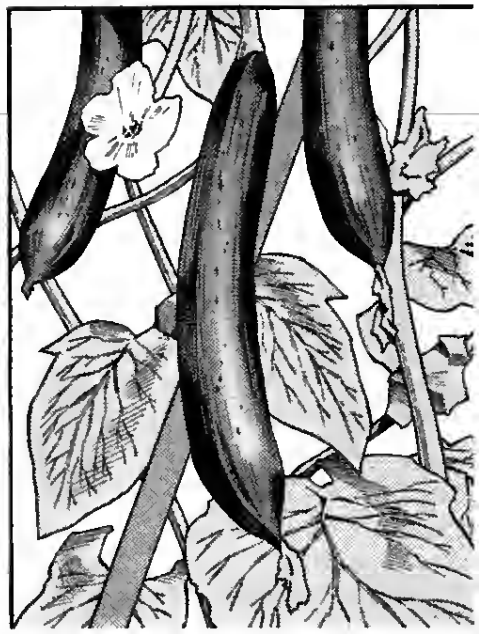
IT'S FINE... I MEAN... WE'VE GOT SEX APPEAL, RIGHT?
IF I WERE A BOY, I'D DEFINITELY FONDLE YOUR BREASTS DAILY!
HAHA HEEEY! STOP IT! HAHA
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A GIRL, YOU STILL DO IT
Squish
Squish
I DON'T THINK MASASHI IS THE ISSUE... ISN'T THE REAL PROBLEM THAT
EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE SIX BOOBS AMONG US, FOUR OF THEM ARE TOO SMALL
Beauty's

BUBBLE
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
I THINK YOU NEED A LESSON IN COUNTING?
HA HA HA
THE BEAUTY'S BATH IS ALWAYS PERMEATED WITH THE FAINT AROMA OF GAS
OH HOW RUDE OF ME
THAT'S PUTRID!
Beauty Bath
BUT I FEEL BAD... MASASHI'S ALL ALONE WHEN WE BATHE...
NO... I'D SAY IT'D BE MORE EMBARRASSING THAN ANYTHING
WOULDN'T IT BE AWESOME IF MASASHI WOULD JOIN US WHEN WE BATHE?

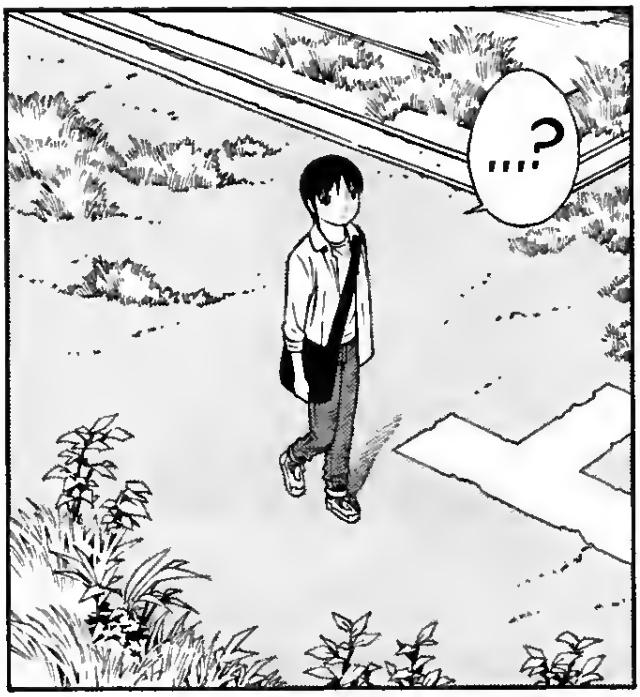
I'M NOT REALLY SURE
I WONDER ... WHAT HE DOES ALL BY HIMSELF...
Splash

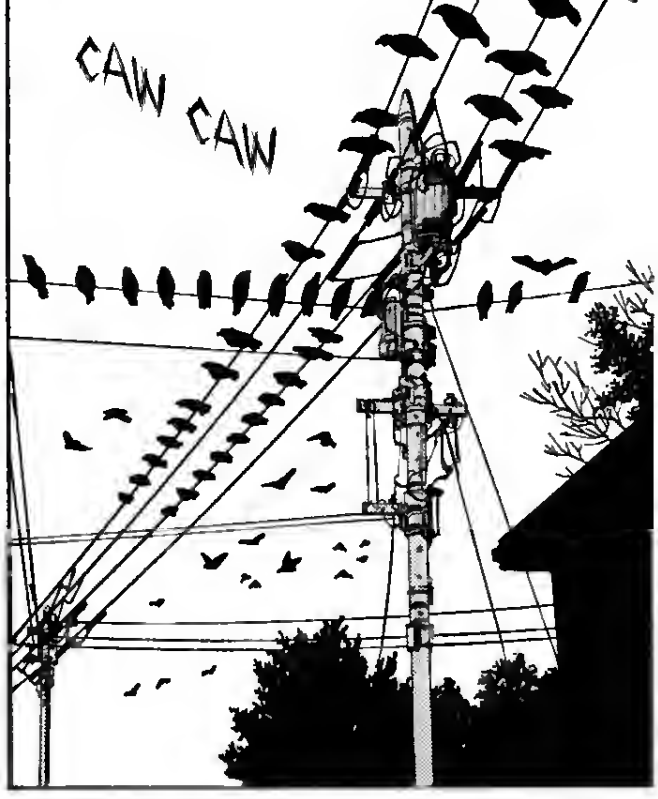
Masashi's Garden

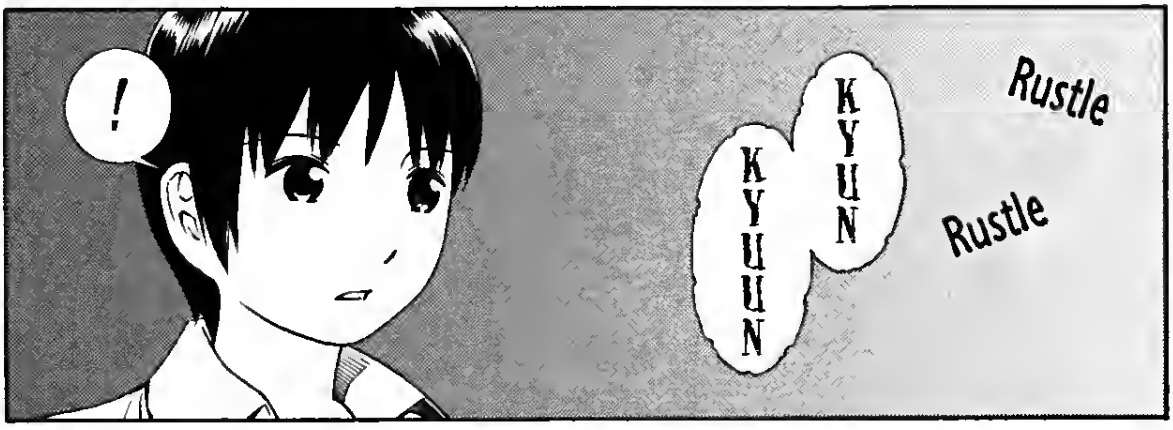
EXCEL-LENT!
THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS HERE



MAYBE I'LL HARVEST THEM TOMORROW
THERE ARE NO ABNORMALITIES WITH THE SOLAR PANELS EITHER
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW





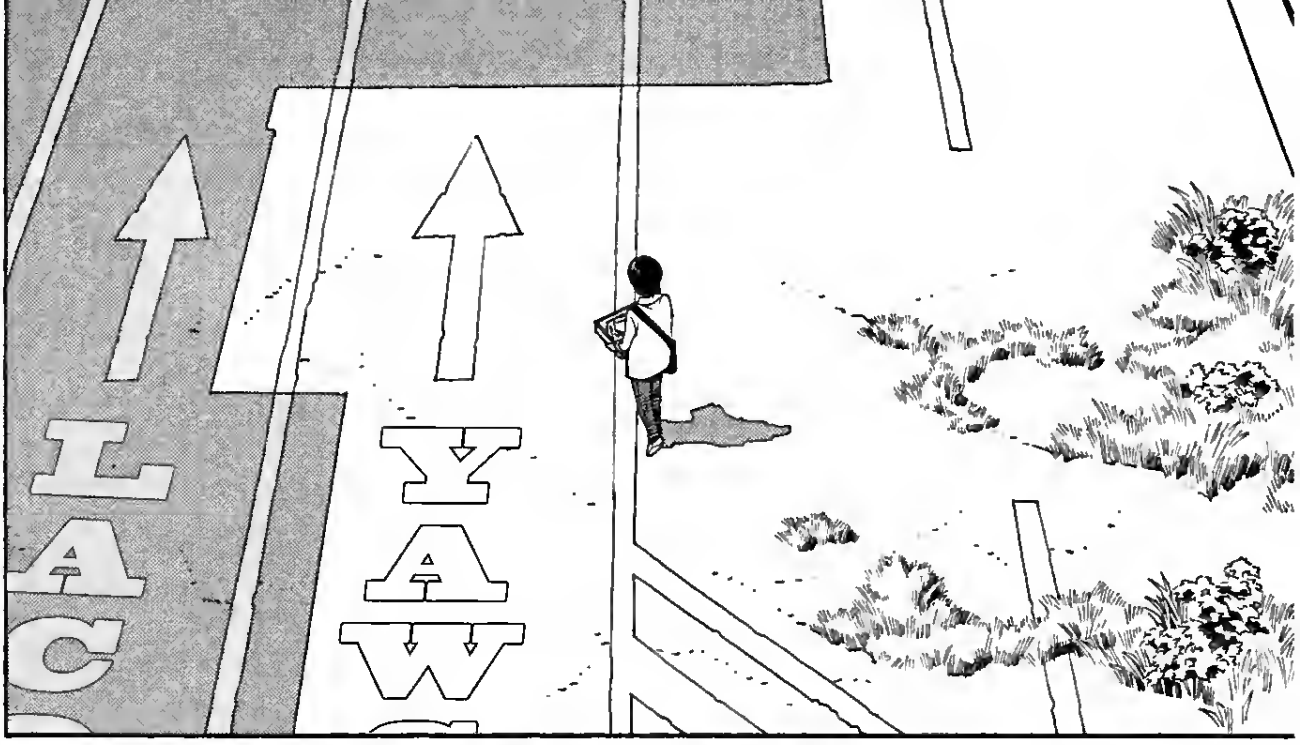


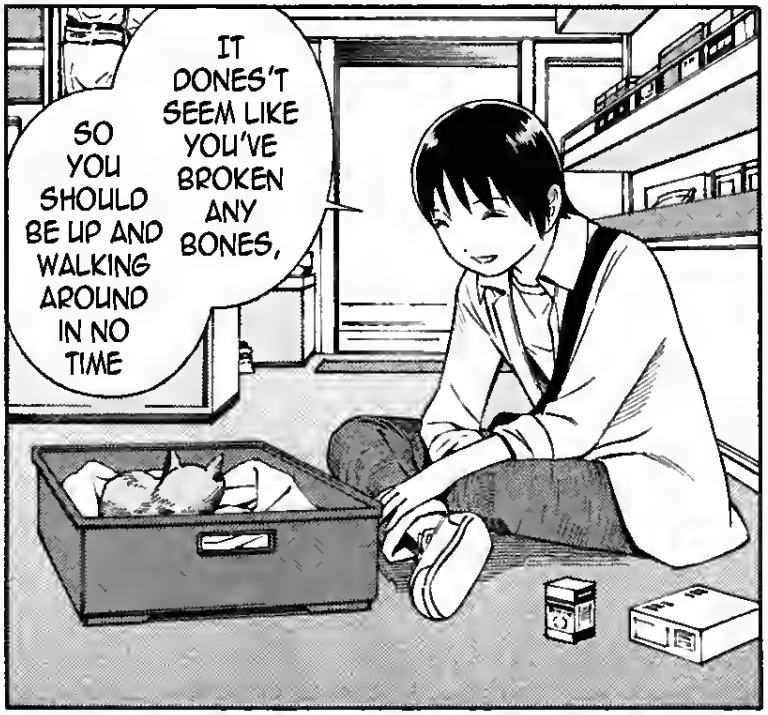
SFX: KYUN - THE SOUND A WHIMPERING DOG MAKES

IT MUST HAVE FALLEN FROM UP THERE...
IT'S A PUPPY...
...
Flap
Flap

Flap
CRACK!
Flap Flap
SHOO! GET OUT OF HERE!
SCRAM!
IT'S OKAY LITTLE GUY...

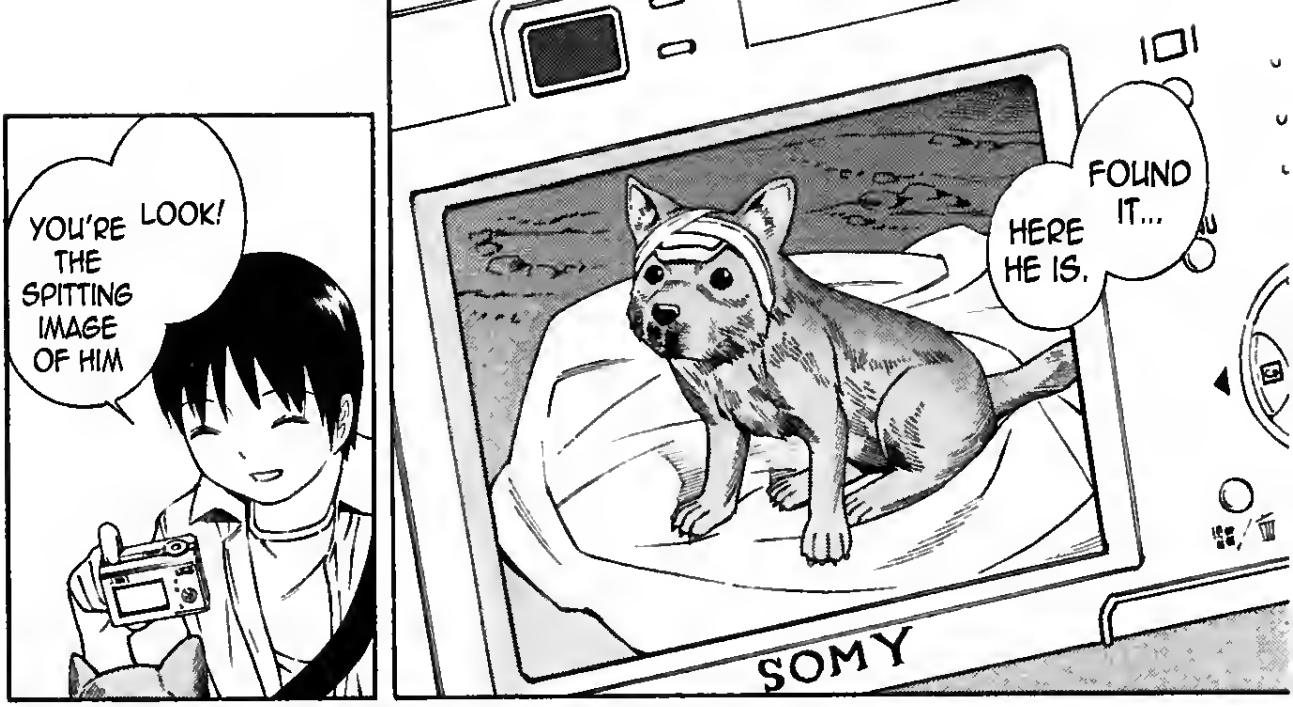
*N: THIS IS JAPANESE PUN THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH. I TRIED TO SMOOTH THE TRANSLATION A BIT. BASICALLY THE JAPANESE WORD "TO ADOPT" SOUNDS LIKE "TO GIVE TO BIRDS", SO MASASHI IS MAKING A JOKE SAYING HE WILLL "ADOPT HIM/GIVE HIM BACK TO THE BIRDS". IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A FULL EXPLANATION WITH THE ACTUAL JAPANESE WORDS, SEE THE BACK TNS.





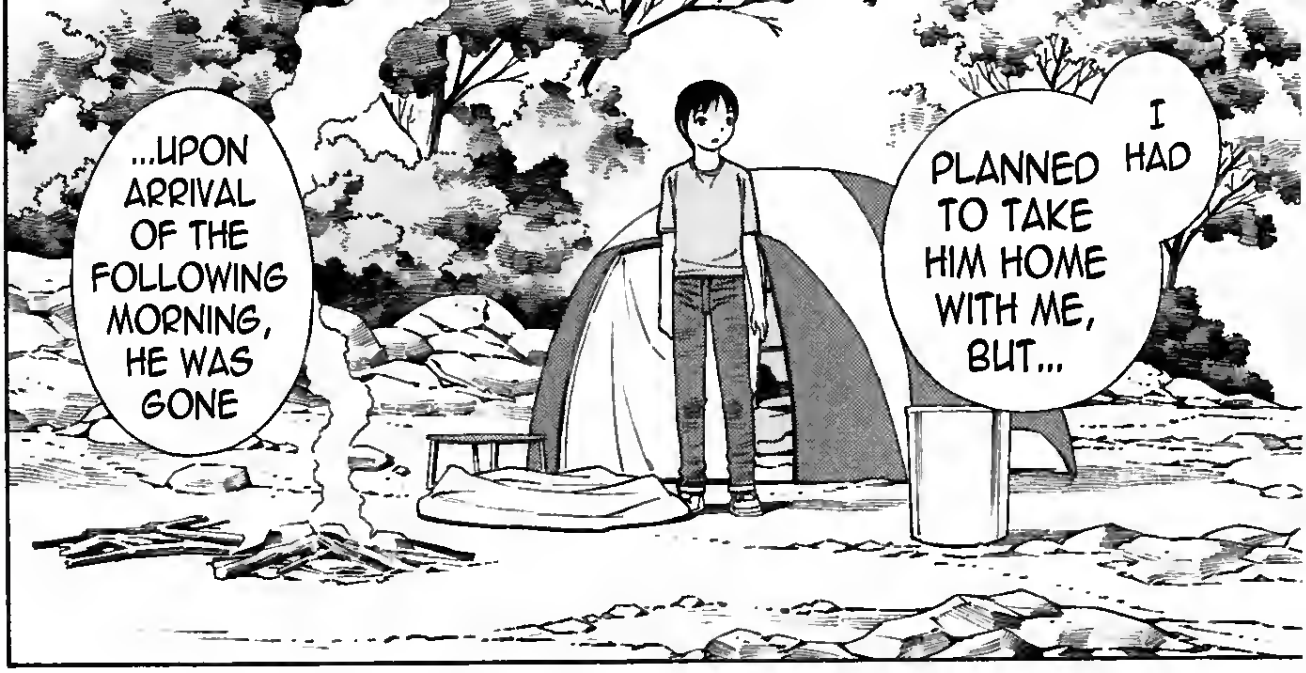
ROADS: "LOCAL" AND "EXPRESSWAY" BACKWARDS SO DRIVERS CAN READ IT.

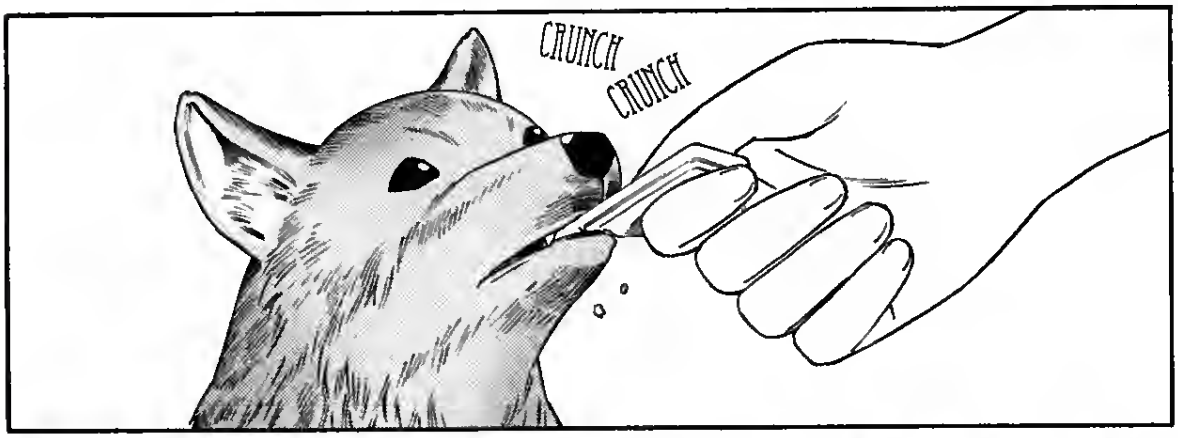
YOU...
LOOK A LITTLE LIKE "APPLE" ...
Rustle
Rustle
Beep
Beep
Beep
Click

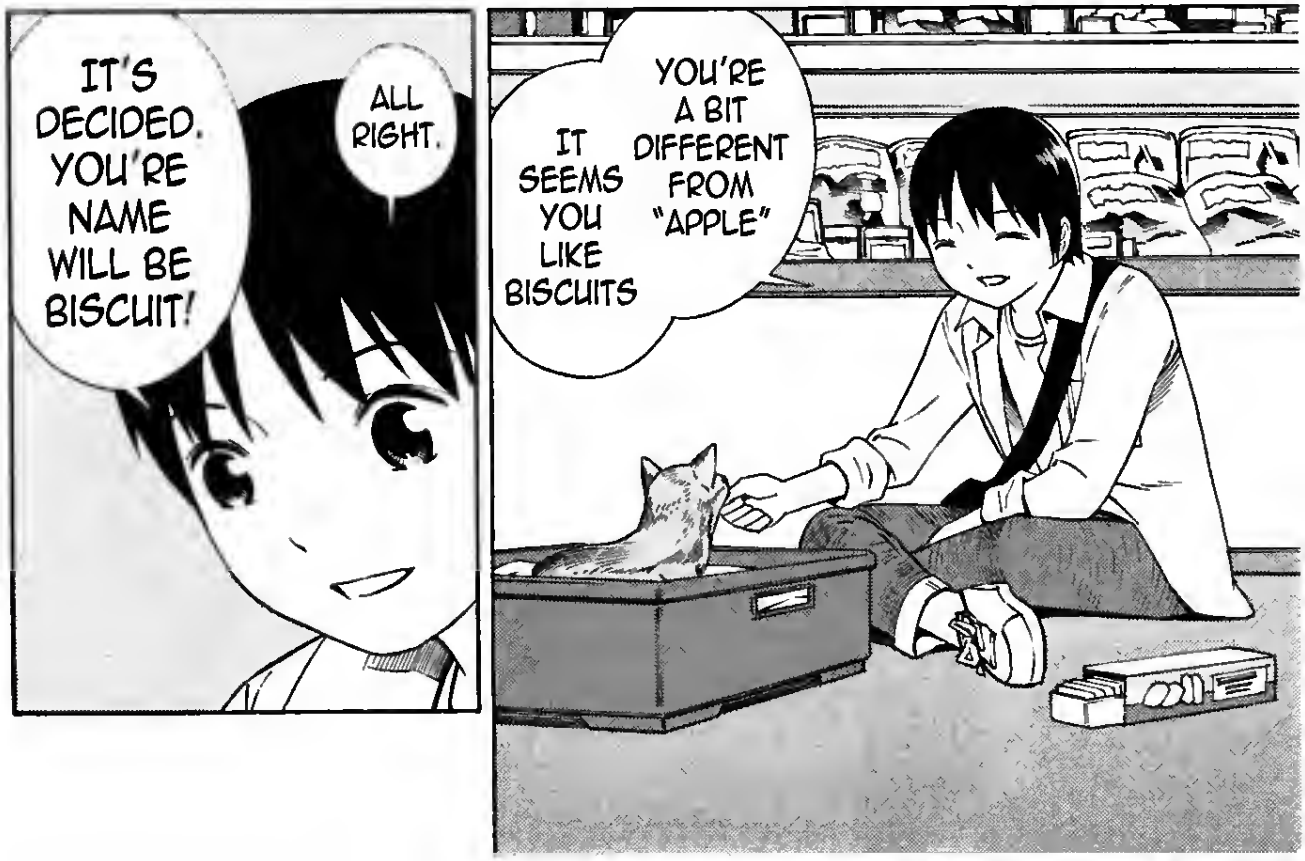

LOOK!
YOU'RE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF HIM
FOUND IT...
HERE HE IS.
SOMY

I HAD GONE INTO THE MOUNTAINS TO LOOK FOR SURVIVORS AND THAT WHEN I FOUND HIM...
BACK WHEN I WAS STILL ALONE...
IT WAS ABOUT A YEAR AGO...

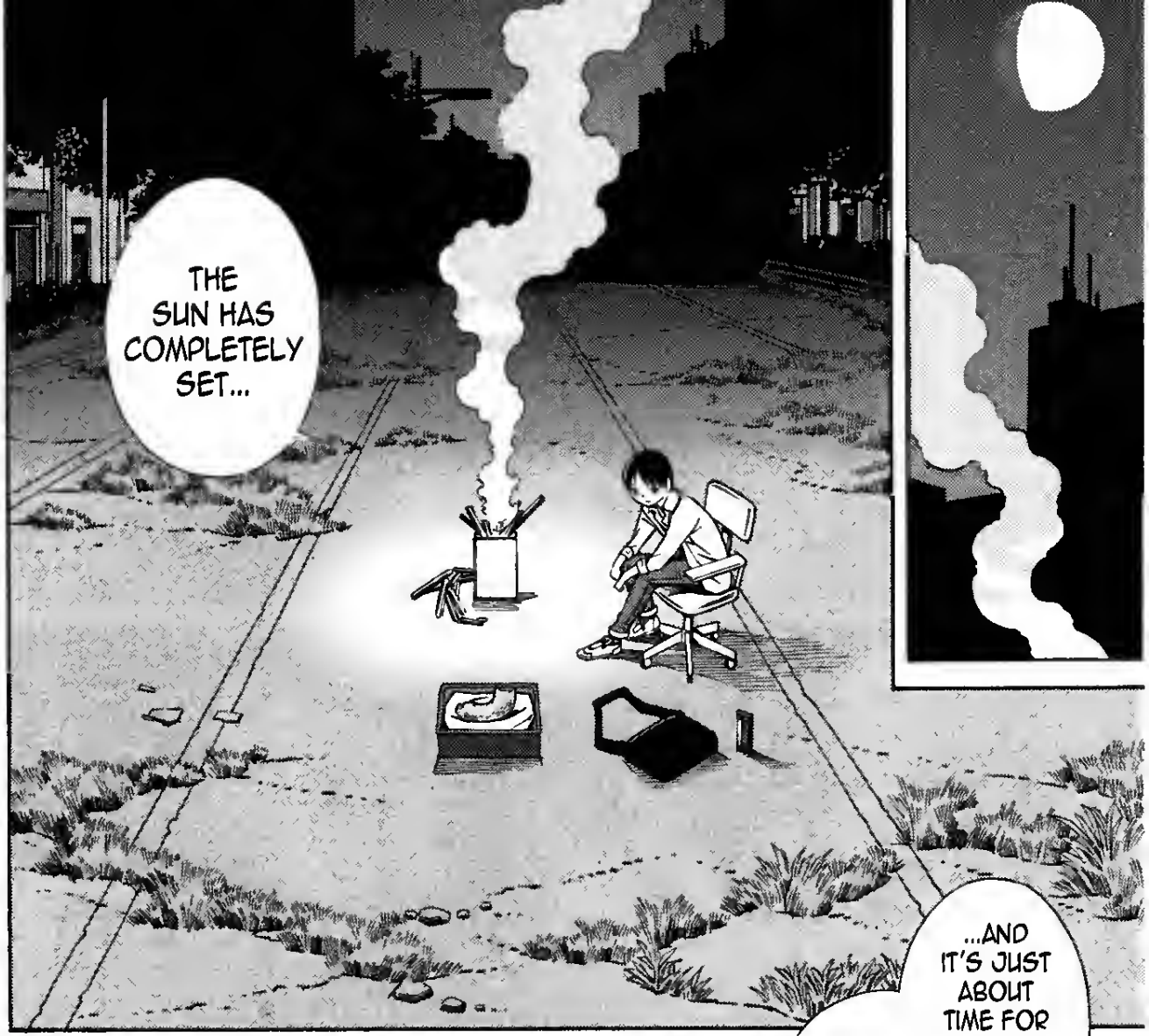
WHAT A HORRIBLE WOUND!
DID ANOTHER DOG DO THIS TO YOU?
CRUNCH CRUNCH
HMM... SO YOU LIKE APPLES,
BUT NOT BISCUITS...
THEN... FROM NOW ON YOUR NAME WILL BE "APPLE"

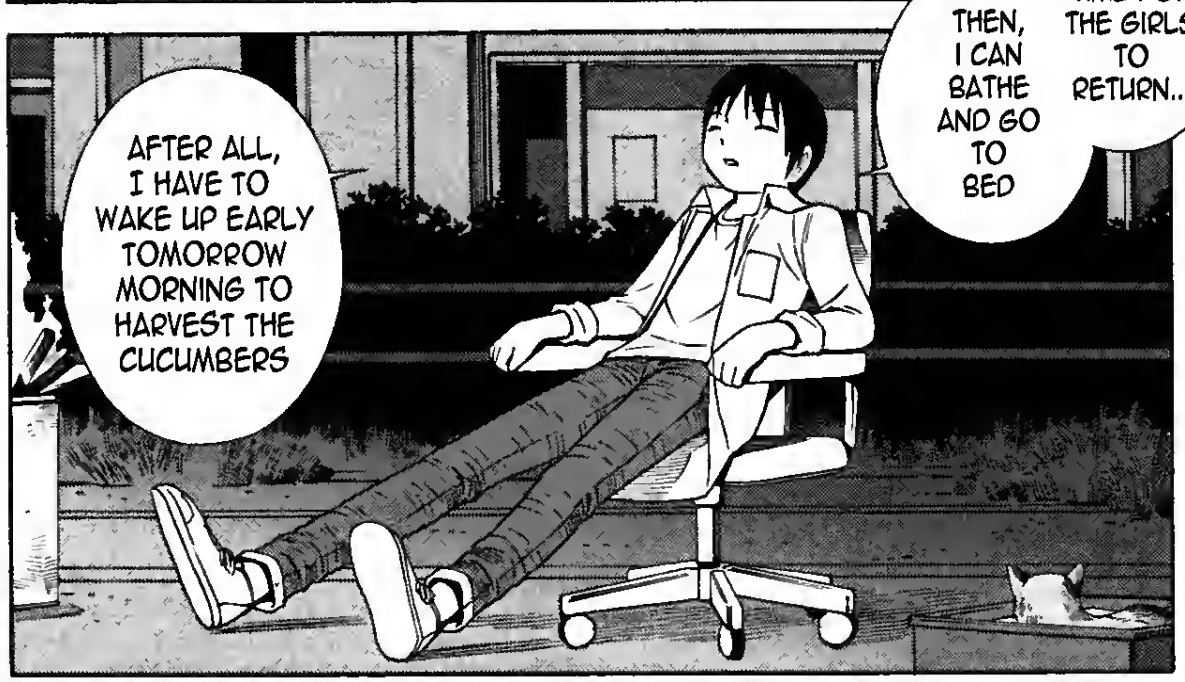

I HAD PLANNED TO TAKE HIM HOME WITH ME, BUT...
...UPON ARRIVAL OF THE FOLLOWING MORNING, HE WAS GONE


CRUNCH
CRUNCH


YOU'RE A BIT DIFFERENT FROM "APPLE"
IT SEEMS YOU LIKE BISCUITS
ALL RIGHT.
IT'S DECIDED. YOU'RE NAME WILL BE BISCUIT!

TN: A TANUKI (狸) IS THE JAPANESE RACCOON DOG. SEE BACK TNS FOR MORE INFORMATION.


THE SUN HAS COMPLETELY SET...

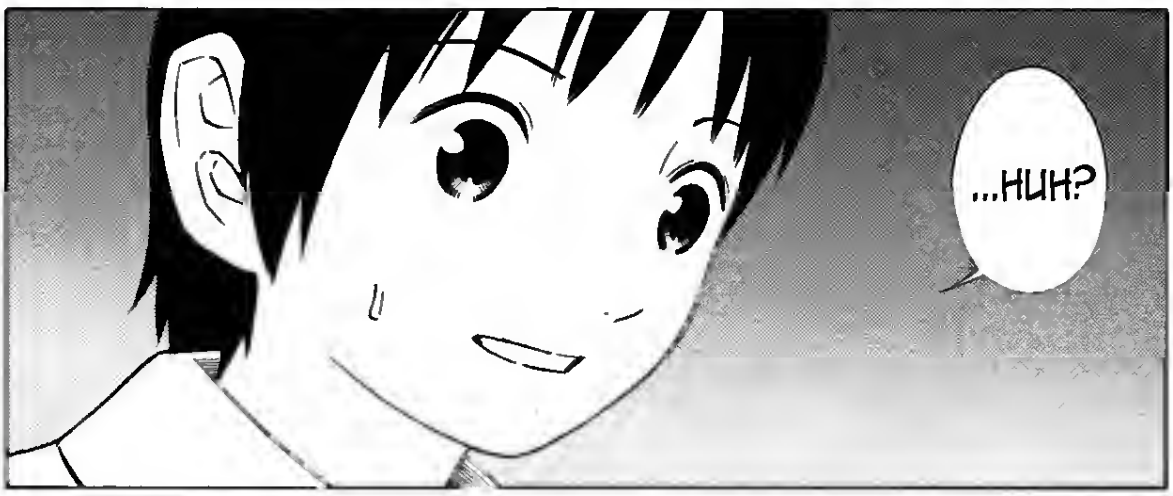

AFTER ALL, I HAVE TO WAKE UP EARLY TOMORROW MORNING TO HARVEST THE CUCUMBERS
THEN, I CAN BATHE AND GO TO BED
...AND IT'S JUST ABOUT TIME FOR THE GIRLS TO RETURN...

HMM?
WHAT'S WRONG?
FOR SOME REASON THERE ARE NEVER ANY STRAY DOGS AROUND HERE, SO...
...I'M SURE THE GIRLS WILL BE OVERJOYED WHEN THEY SEE YOU

GRRRRRRRRRR
THAT WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE YOUR MOM WOULD IT?
BIS-CUIT...
I SAVED YOUR-
JUST HOLD ON A MOMENT... LET ME EXPLAIN...

GA-TAN
ZAA
GA
GRRR

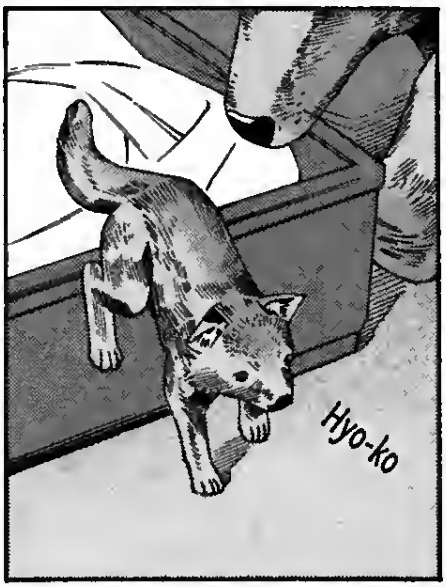
NOT A DOG ...
YOU'RE ...
SNARL
WAI-


...HUH?

Lick Lick
THAT SCAR...
...

APPLE?

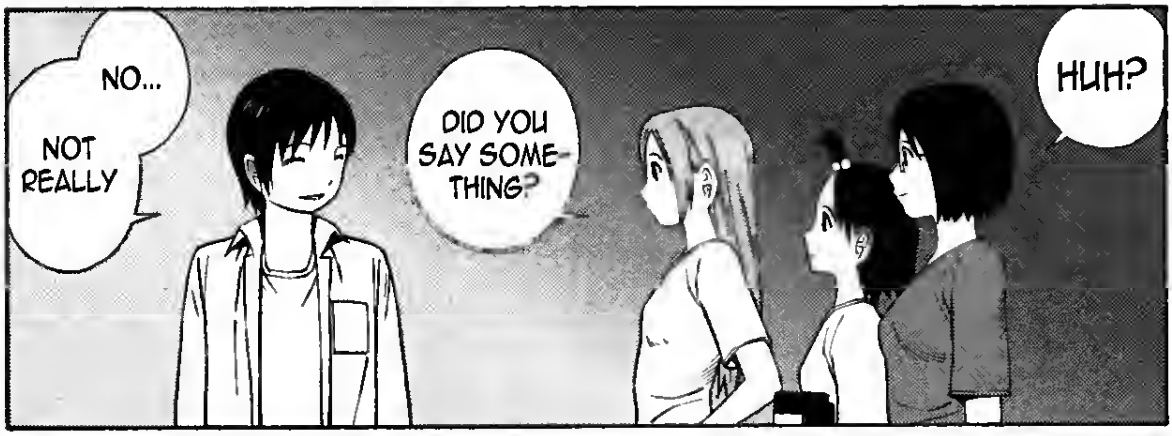
I SEE ...
SO YOU FOUND YOURSELF A WIFE...

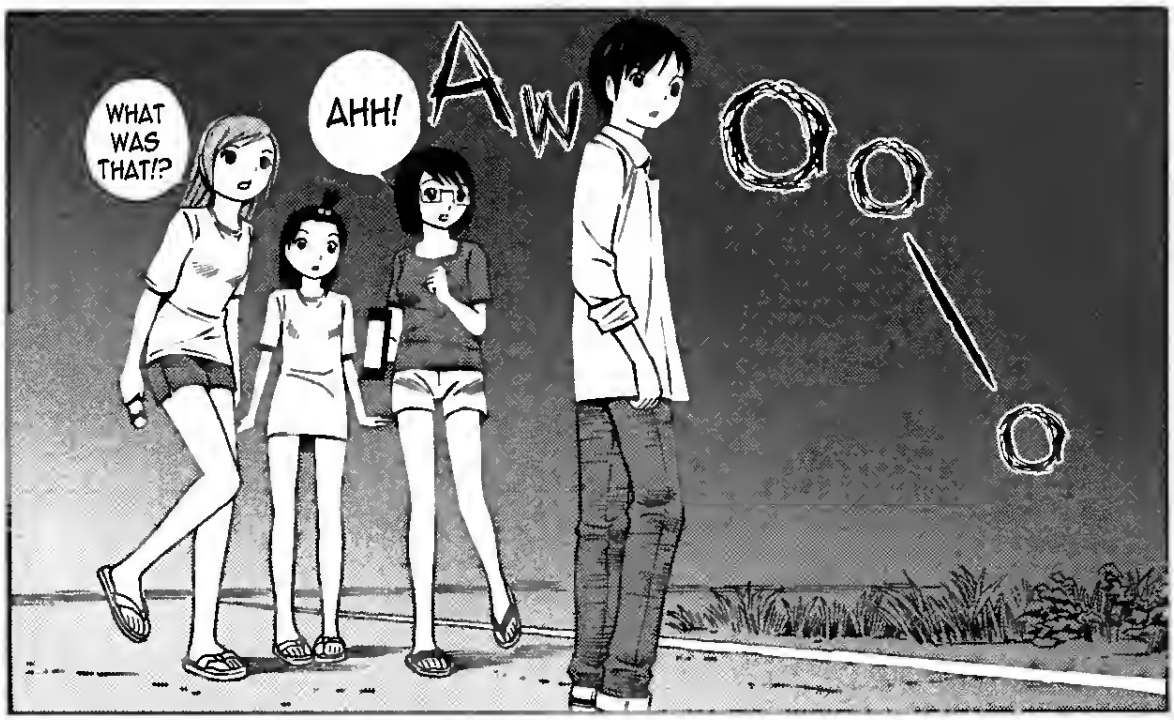


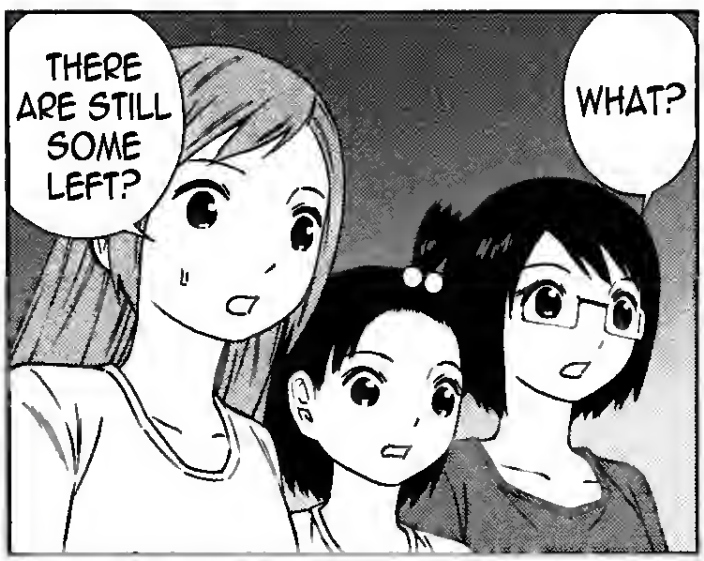
TN: THERE ARE TWO SPECIES OF EXTINCT JAPANESE WOLVES: THE HOKKAIDO WOLF (エゾオオカミ) AND THE HONSHU WOLF (ニホンオオカミ) ALSO KNOWN AS THE JAPANESE WOLF IN JAPAN. SOME HAVE CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN THEM SINCE THEIR EXTINCTION, BUT THESE SIGHTINGS HAVE NOT BEEN CONFIRMED. THE JAPANESE WOLF DIED OFF DUE DEFORESTATOIN OF THEIR HABITAT, HUMAN CONFLICT, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF RABIES TO JAPAN IN 1732.

IT'S PROBABLY BETTER FOR YOUR FAMILY
NOW THAT THERE ARE NO MORE HUMANS...
...RIGHT APPLE?
FAMILY, HUH?

TN: SEE TNS IN THE BACK


NO...
NOT REALLY
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
HUH?

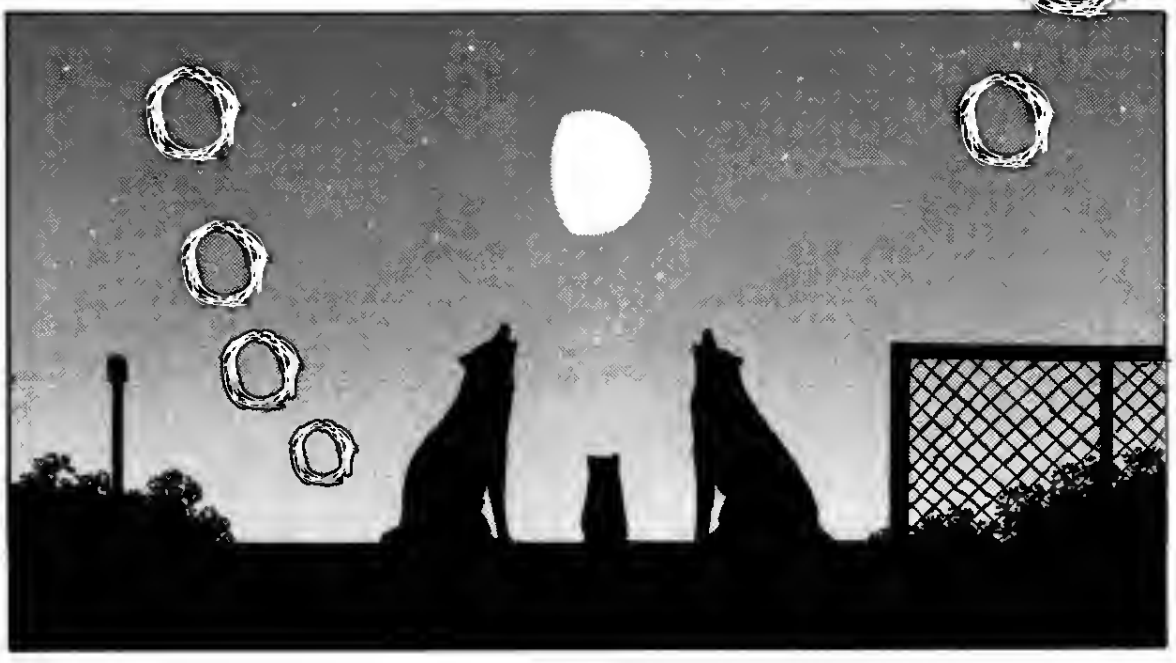

WHAT WAS THAT!?
AHH!
Awoo


THERE ARE STILL SOME LEFT?
WHAT?

THE HOWL OF JAPANESE WOLVES

YEAH...
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE ARE SOME SURVIVORS
PROBAB-LY THE REASON WE NEVER SEE ANY STRAY DOGS
IS BECAUSE THIS IS THEIR TERRITORY
AWOO
I SEE...
1 2 3...
SURE! WHY NOT?
WANT TO ANSWER THEM?

A
W
O
O
O
A
W
O
O



TRANSLATION NOTES

JAPANESE BIRDFOOD PUN (P38) - IN THE BOTTOM RIGHT PANEL, MASASHI SAYS "TORI KARA ESA WO TORIAGETAN DA "THIS TRANSLATES TO SOMETHING LIKE "I ADOPTED BIRD FOOD FROM THE BIRDS." HOWEVER, "TORIAGETANDA" HAS MULTIPLE MEANINGS. AS IT IS WRITTEN IN BOTTOM RIGHT PANEL (取り上げたんだ), IT CAN MEAN TO ADOPT OR CONFISCATE DEPENDING UPON THE CONTEXT. BOTH ARE TRUE IN THIS CASE. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT THE PUN. WHAT HE SAYS SOUNDS EXACTLY THE SAME "I TOOK BIRD FOOD FROM THE BIRDS, SO I'LL GIVE THEM BIRD FOOD" PROBABLY IMPLYING THAT HE'LL GIVE HIM BACK TO THEM SINCE HE WAS JUST SAYING THEY TOO HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE. THIS PUN IS MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE "TORIAGERU"(取り上げる MEANING "TO ADOPT") SOUNDS JUST LIKE COLLOQUIAL SPEECH "TORIAGERU" (鳥あげる), IN WHICH THE PARTICLES DENOTING THE SUBJECT AND OBJECT ARE ABSENT. ARE A RESULT THIS "TORIAGERU" MEANS MEANS "TO GIVE TO THE BIRDS".

TANUKI P (44) - A TANUKI (狸) IS THE JAPANESE RACCOON DOG. IT IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED A SUBSPECIES OF RACOON BY RESEARCHERS, BUT IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED TO BE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT SPECIES. IN JAPANESE FOLKLORE, THE TANUKI PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE AS MISCHEVIOUS SHIAPESHIFITNG CREATURES THAT SOMETIMES IMPERSONATE HUMANS. SOME MIGHT BE FAMILIAR WITH THE TANUKI FROM SOME OF THE MARIO GAMES IN WHICH THE TANUKI SUIT GIVES YOU THE ABILITY TO FLY.

SEASONING (P56) - ANNA ACTUALLY SAYS "THE DASHI OF THREE GIRLS HAS BEEN PUT INTO IT". DASHI () IS FISH AND KELP STOCK USED FOR ADDING FLAVOR TO SOUPS SUCH AS MISO SOUP. FOR THIS REASON, I ELECTED TO SAY "SEASONED" SINCE IT FLOWS BETTER.

ANNA'S CLOTHING - SOME OF ANNA'S CLOTHING HAS THE JAPANESE WORD "AHO" (アホ OR 阿保) WRITTEN ON IT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SHIRT SHE IS WEARKING ON P56 AND THE SWIMING SUIT SHE WORE ON THE CHAPTER "PARTY ON EARTH". "AHO" CAN BE TRANSLATED A VARIETY OF WAYS. OFTEN IT IS TRANSLATED AS "IDIOT" OR "FOOL". I TRANSLATE IT AS FOOL SINCE ANNA ISN'T REALLY AN IDIOT. SHE JUST ACTS LIKE A FOOLISH CHILD SOMETIMES.

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This chapter was fun to translate, but not so fun to clean. There were quite a few sound effects. Because a majority of this chapter is inner monologue, it was a challenge to make it flow smoothly. I still don't know if I really succeeded. I had completed translation for the chapter long ago, but didn't start the typsetting until yesterday due to real life things. Friday is always crunch time for me. Half of the next chapter is already translated and that's the wordiest section, so I'm hoping to complete the translation by the end of the week-end and to at least begin typesetting it. As always, let me know about any typos or leave me a message on my release blog. I hope you enjoy the chapter!

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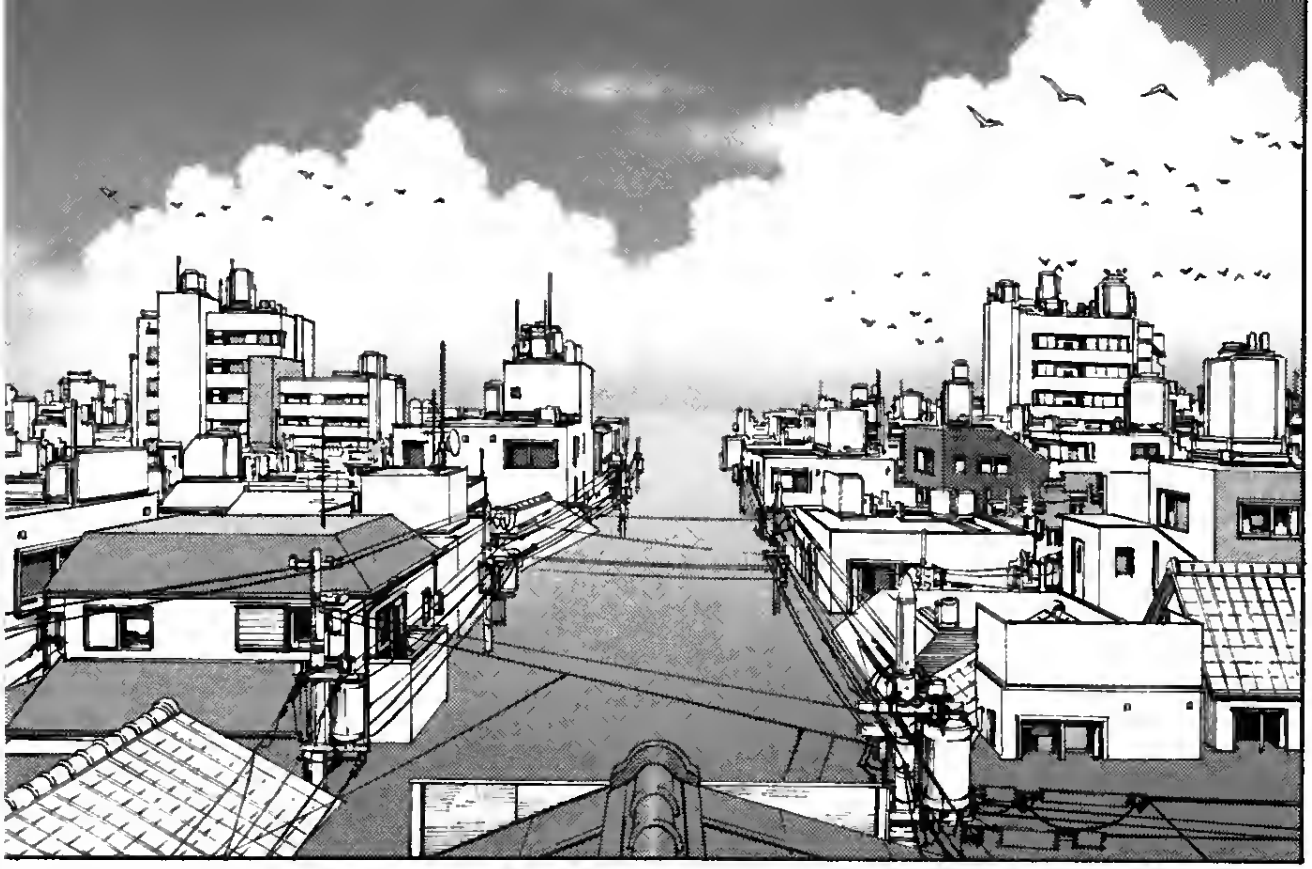
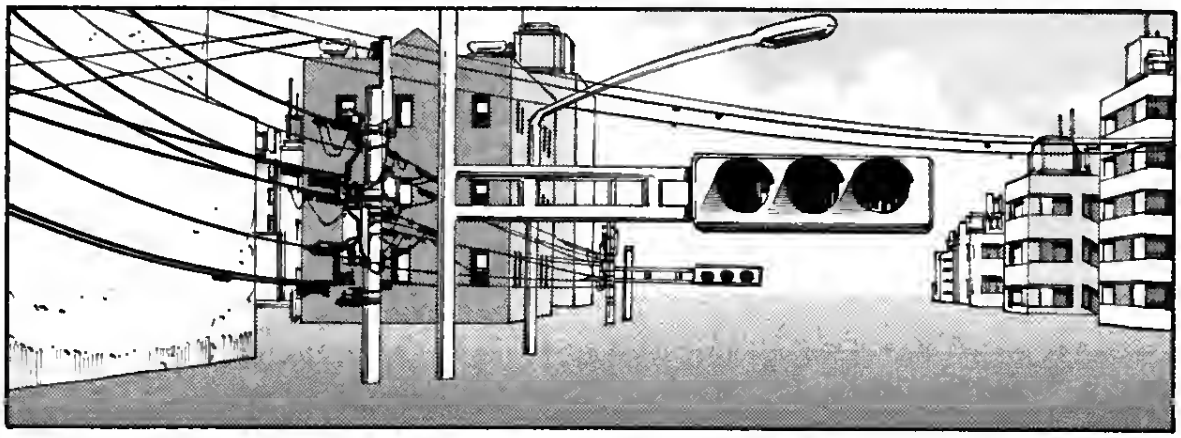
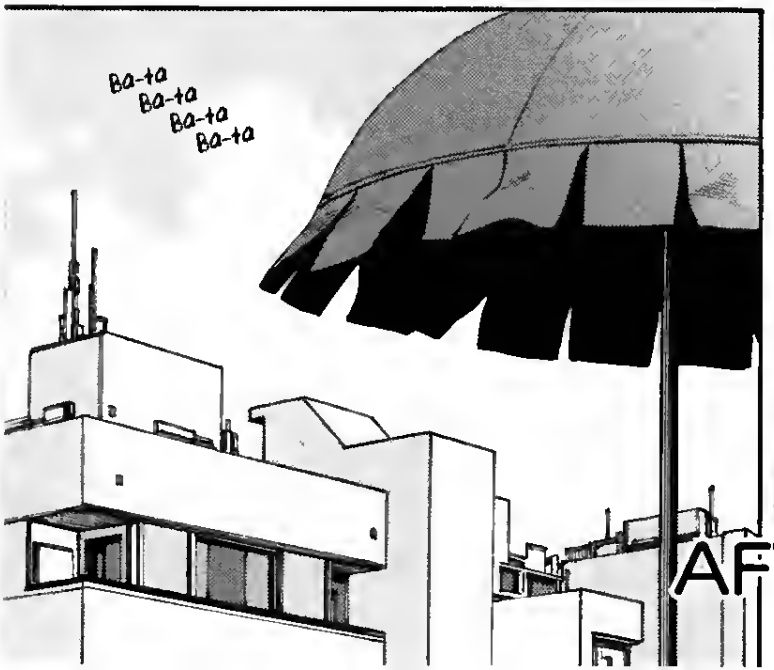
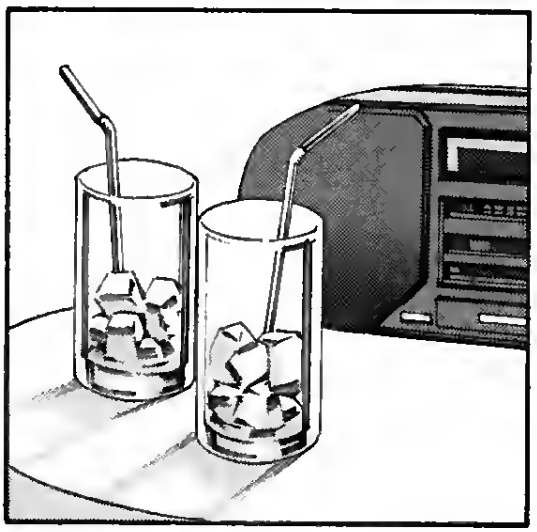


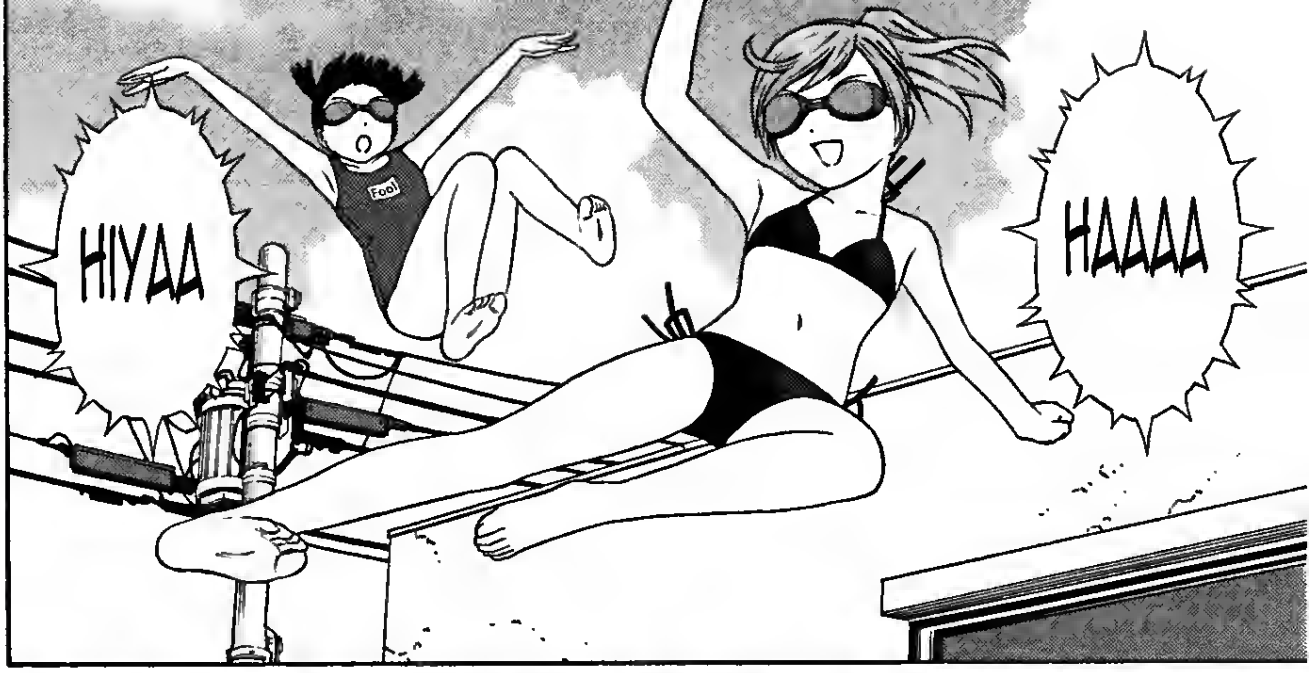
SFX: SOUND OF SWIMMING

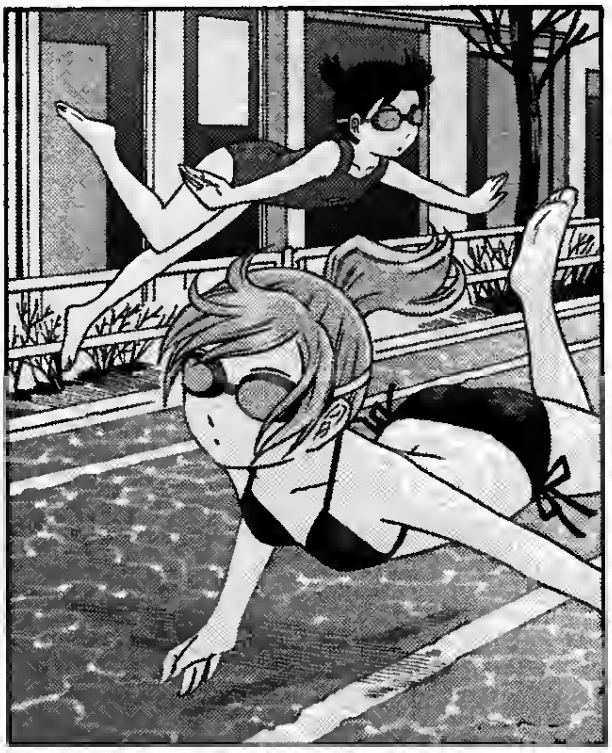




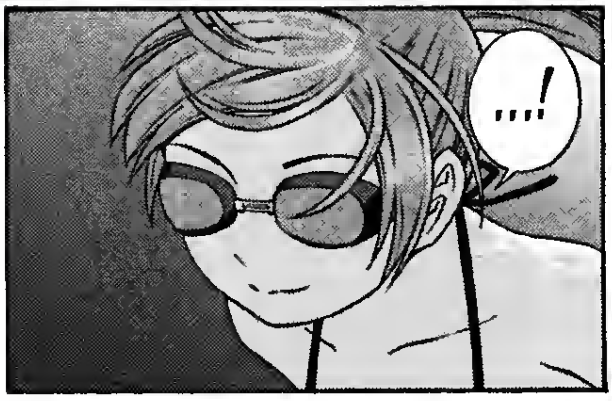


AFTER9 ／ Underwater City


HIYAA
Fool
HAAAA

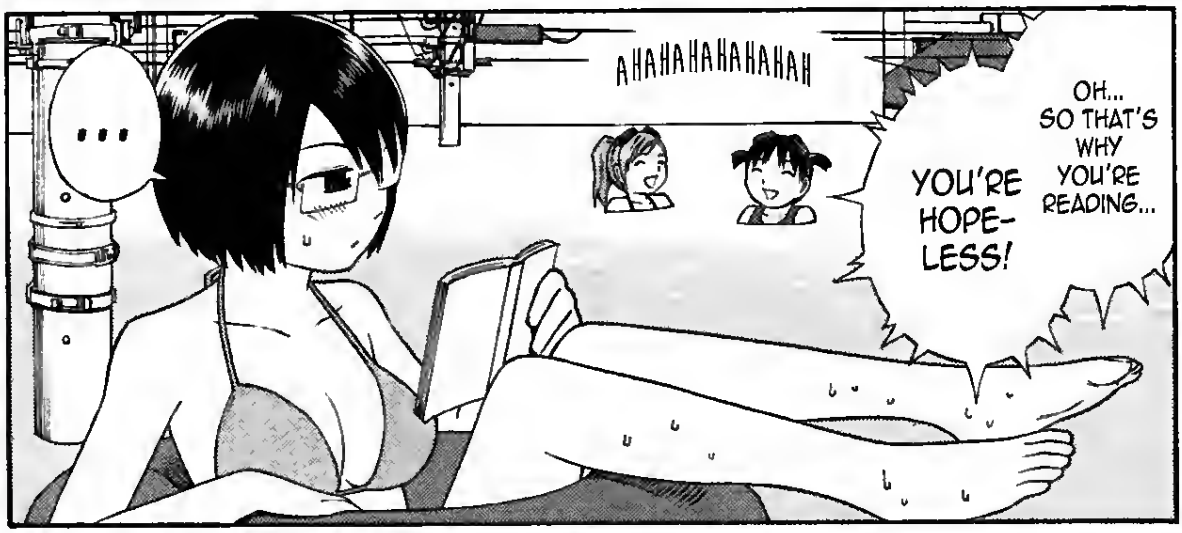


Do-bo Do-bo


...!

Zaba
GOT IT!!
BWUHA
Fool
CARE-FUL YOU TWO...
DON'T PLAY WHERE IT'S TOO DEEP!
ONE MORE TIME!
AGAIN!
HEHEHE.. LOOKS LIKE IT'S MY WIN!

SANAE'S HOPELESS WHEN IT COMES TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY...
SHE CAN'T EVEN SWIM...
DON'T ASK THE IMPOSSIBLE...
COME ON SANAE-NEECHAN!
YOU SHOULD PLAY 500 YEN PICK-UP* TOO!
Fool

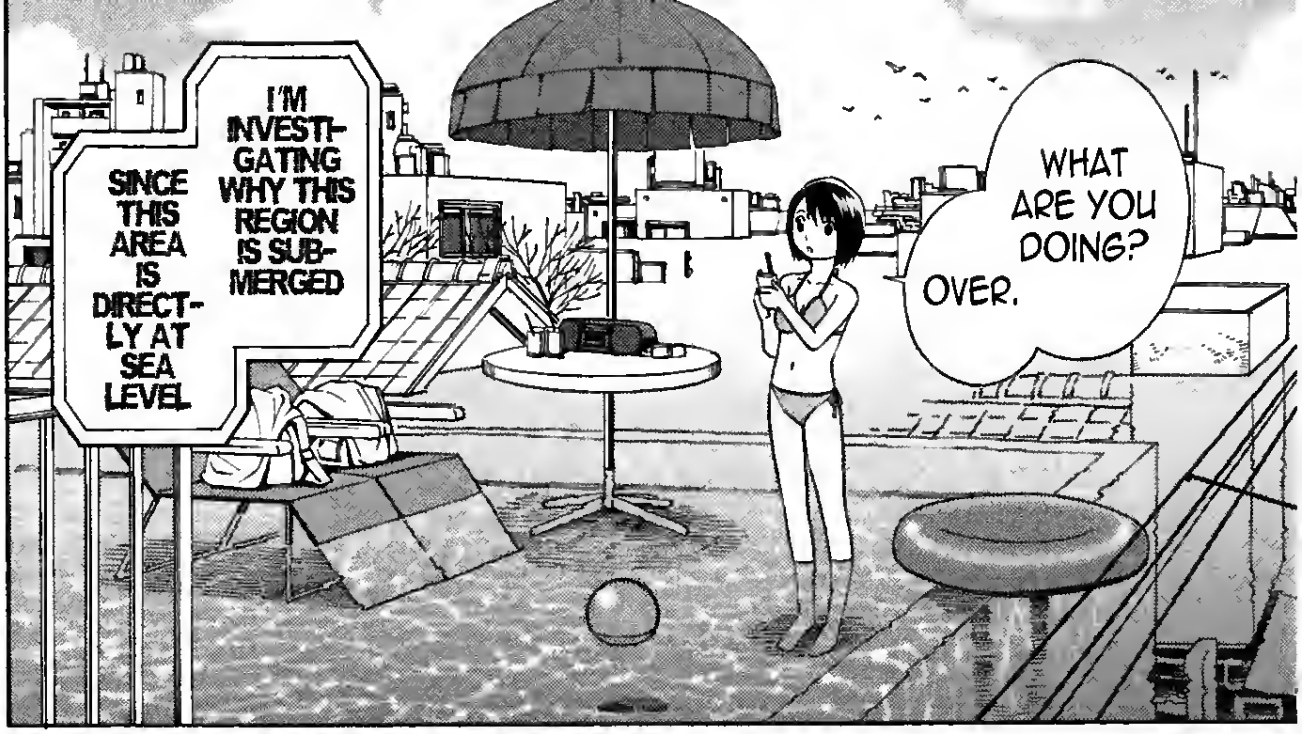


TN: 500-YEN PICK-UP IS A GAME A WHERE A 500-YEN COIN IS THROWN INTO A POOL AND THE ONE TO RE-COVER IT WINS,

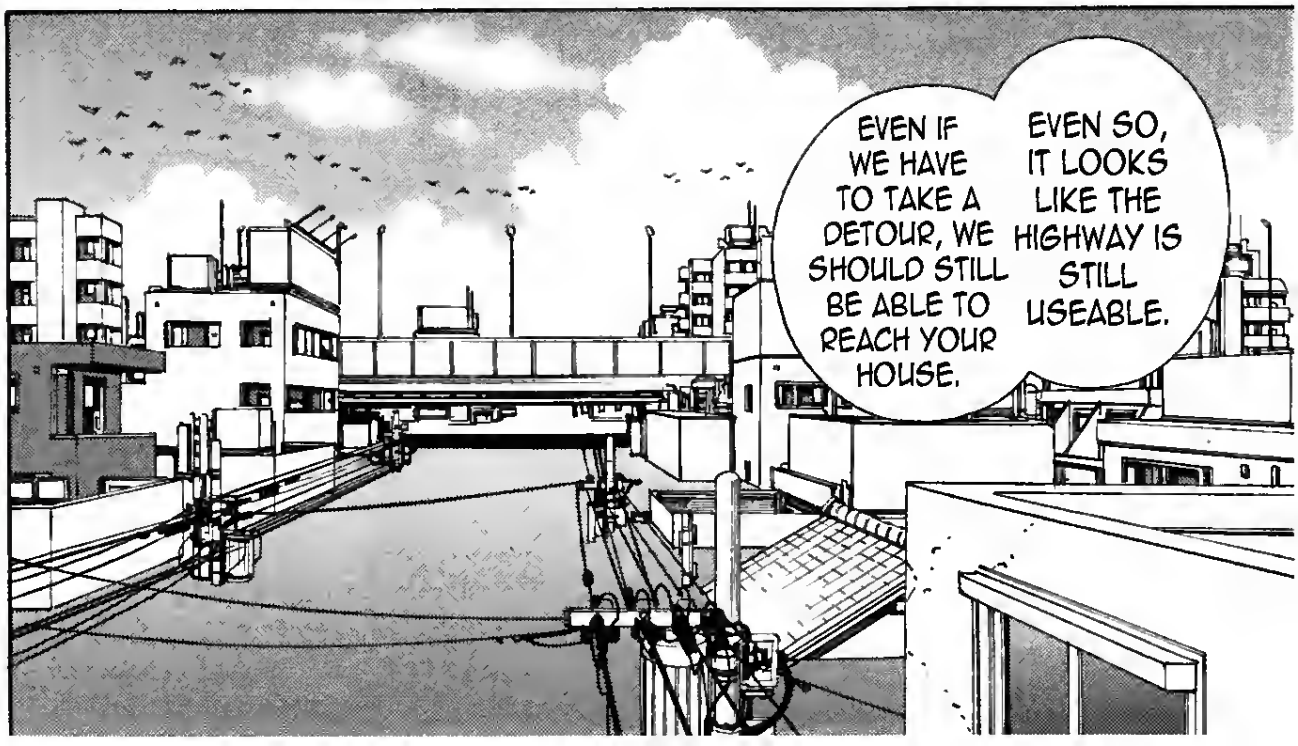
Boing
JEEZ
HOW RUDE...
HYAA
HYAA
KYAA
KYAA
Splash
HAAA
Ga-shi
AHAH
AHAH
AHAH
Splash
Splash

SFX: BOBBING IN WATER

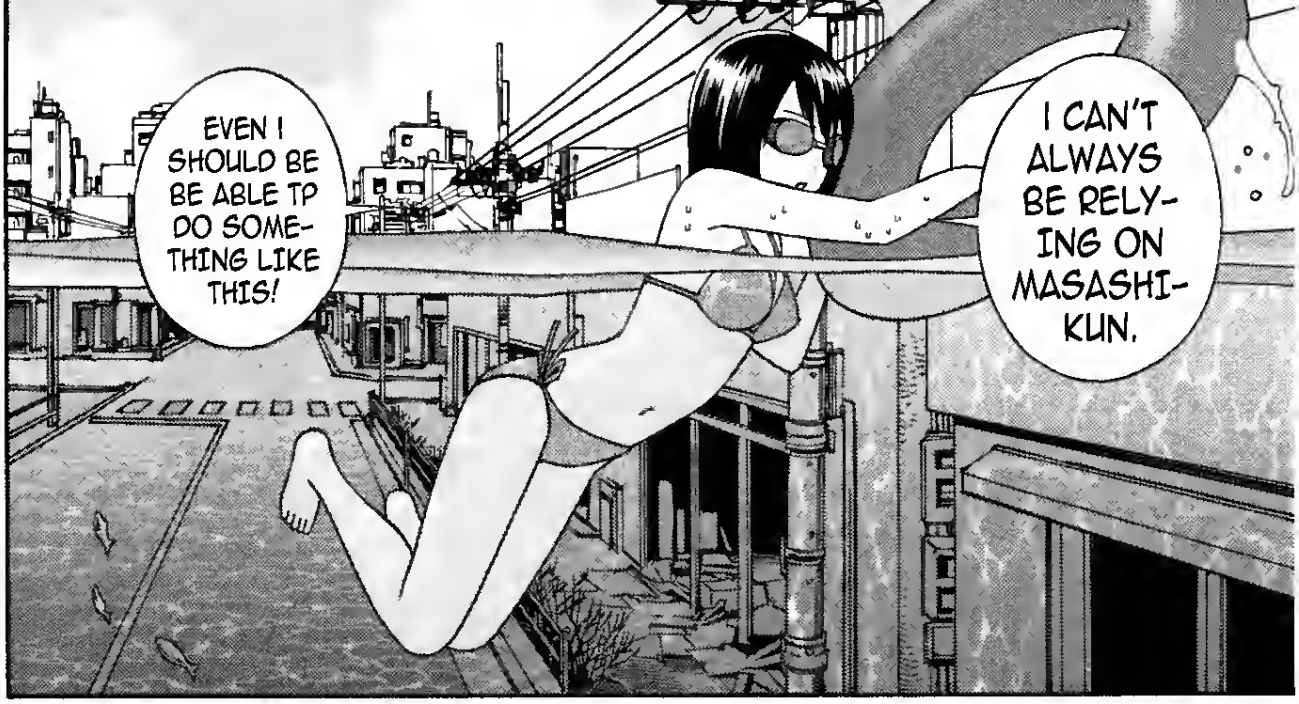
SHH
BEEP
MASASHI-KUN, THIS IS SANAE. WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?
OVER.
THIS IS MASASHI ...
RIGHT NOW I'M ABOUT 500 METERS NORTH OF YOUR POSITION.
OVER.

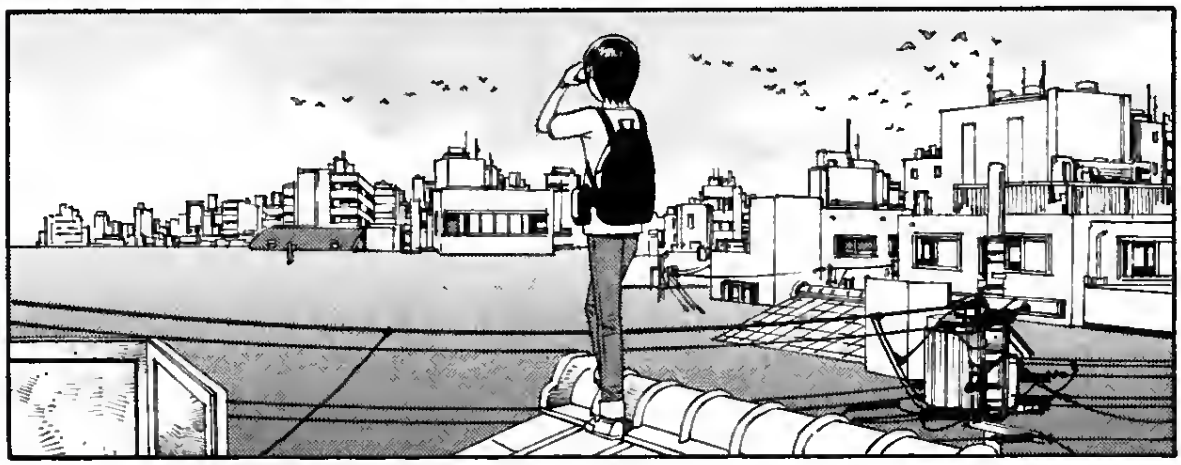

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? OVER.
I'M INVESTIGATING WHY THIS REGION IS SUBMERGED
SINCE THIS AREA IS DIRECTLY AT SEA LEVEL

IT SEEMS THAT A PART OF ARAKAWA'S COAST WAS RIPPED AWAY CAUSING WATER TO FLOW INLAND
THE WATER IN THE CITY IS QUITE BEAUTIFUL, BUT WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL OF THIS AREA...
...THE FLOWING WATERS ARE CREATING UNDERTOWS.


EVEN SO, IT LOOKS LIKE THE HIGHWAY IS STILL USEABLE.
EVEN IF WE HAVE TO TAKE A DETOUR, WE SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO REACH YOUR HOUSE.

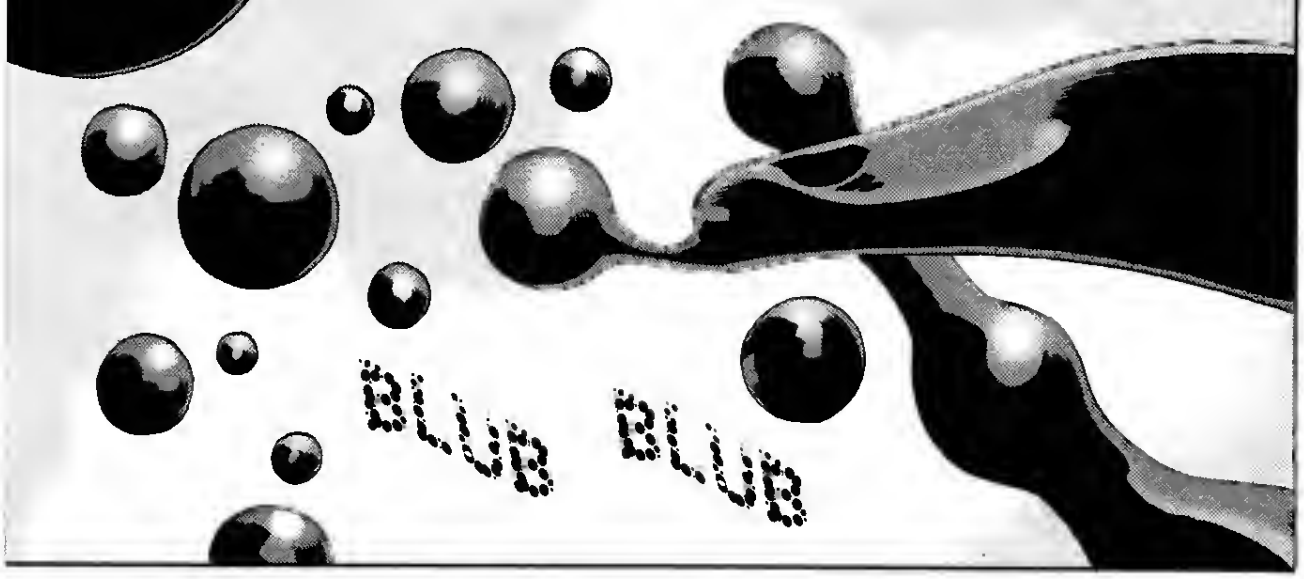
O-OH GREAT!
GOOD LUCK WITH THE REST OF YOUR INVESTIGAT-ION
OVER!
...
OVER.
...
HAA...

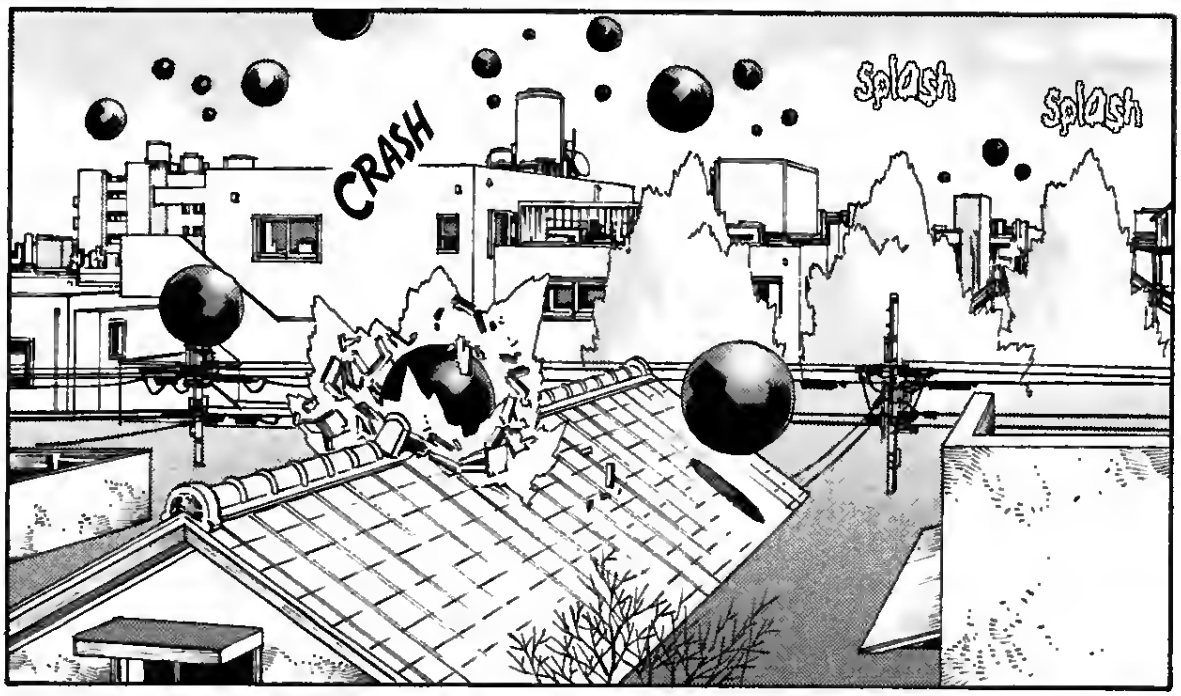

I CAN'T ALWAYS BE RELY-ING ON MASASHI-KUN.
EVEN I SHOULD BE BE ABLE TP DO SOME-THING LIKE THIS!



!?
BOOOOOOM

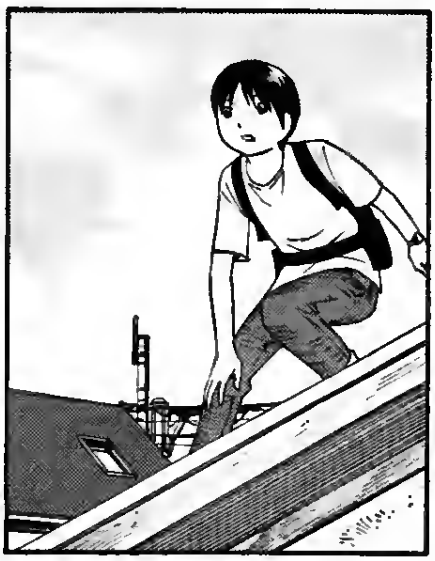
CRACK
Splash
Snap
Snap
...
WHAT'S THAT?
Shhhhhhhh
Boom


BLUB BLUB

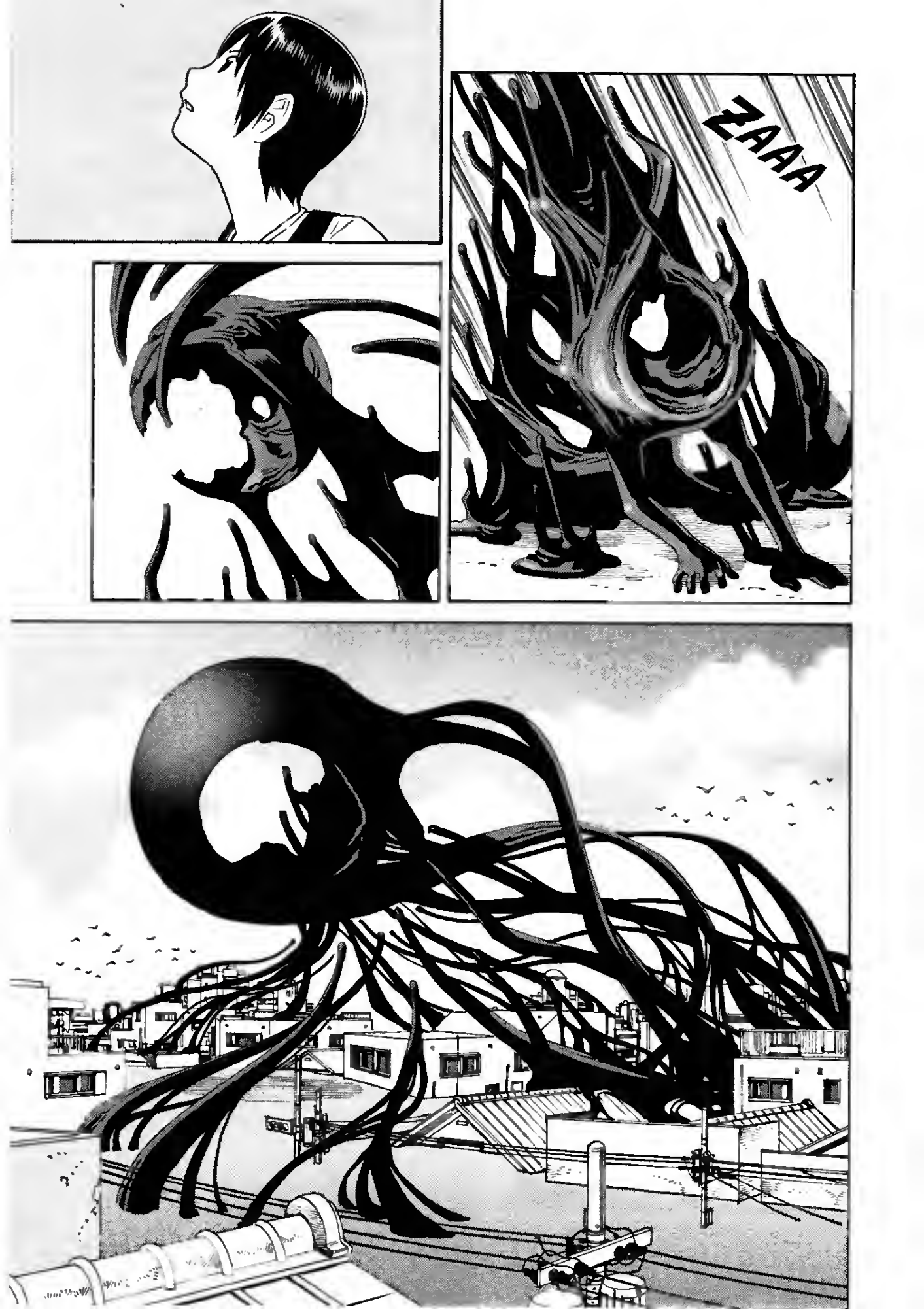

CRASH
Splash
Splash

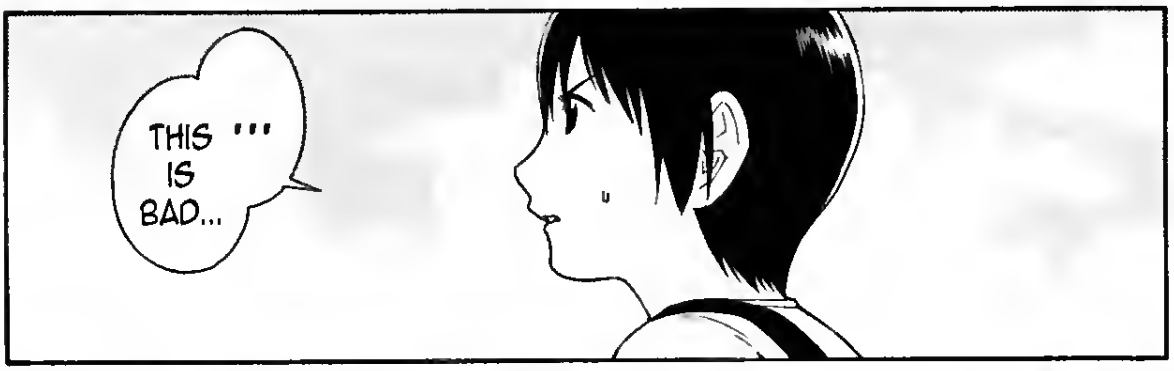
SLIP
SLURP

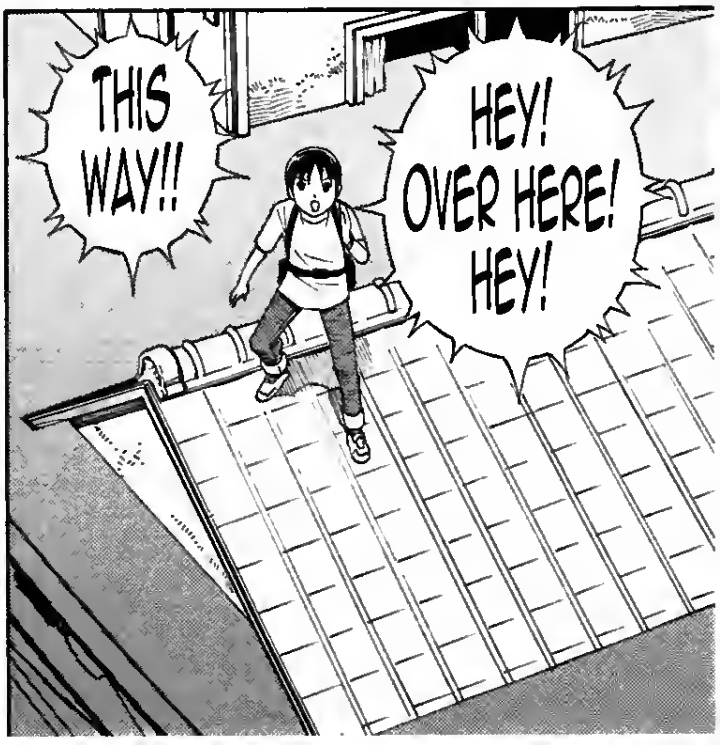
THOSE ARE...



PHANTOMS!!
...?
BWUAAAAAAAA
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB


ZAAA


THIS ... IS BAD...


THIS WAY!!
HEY! OVER HERE! HEY!

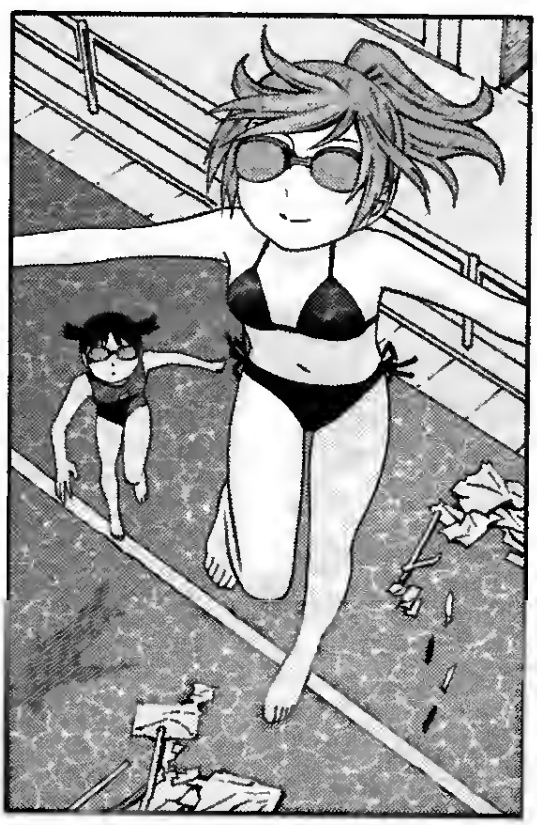
SANAE-CHAN COME IN! CAN YOU HEAR ME!?
A PHAN-TOM IS HEADED YOUR WAY!
BEEP
SHHH
OVER!
IT'S FLY-ING!
IT'S DIFFER-ENT FROM USUAL THOUGH!

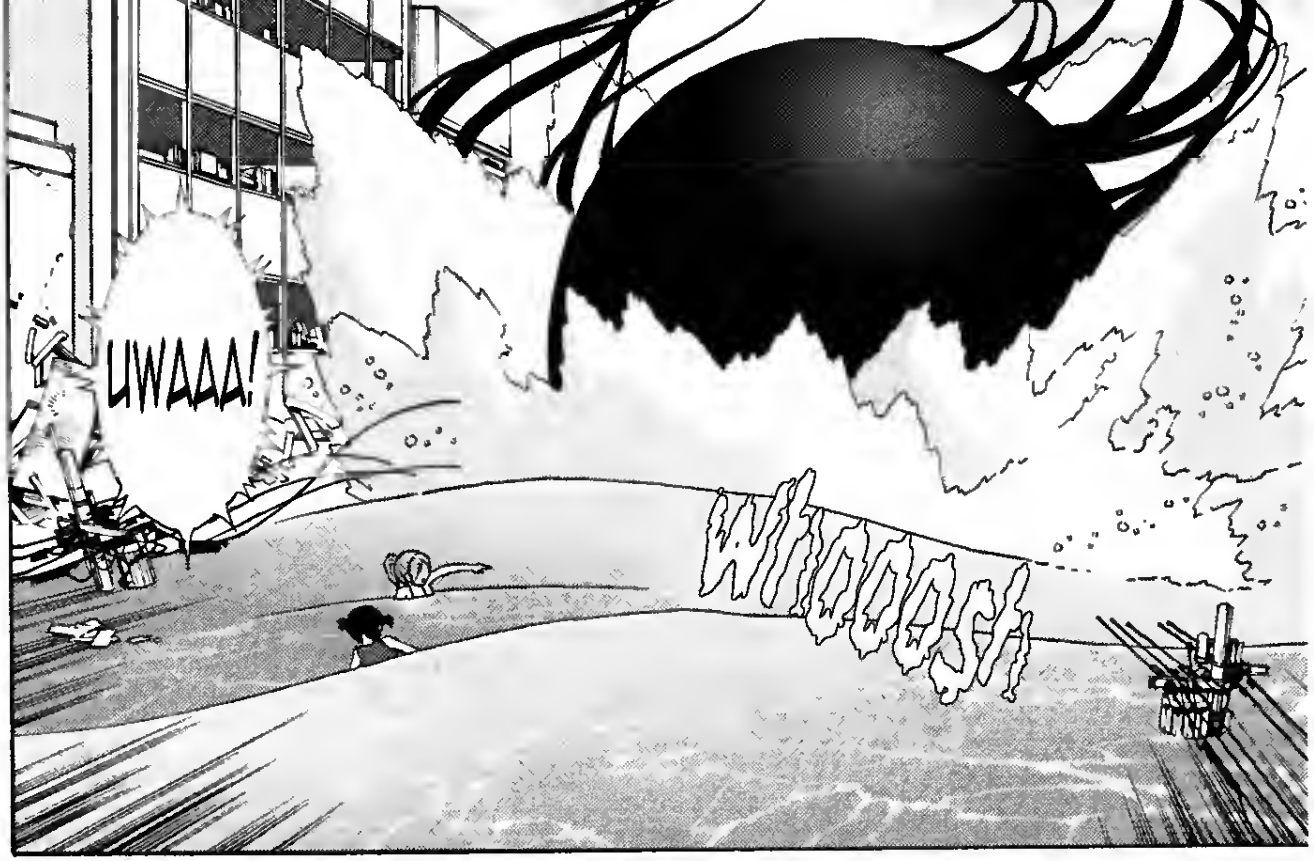
ALMOST GOT IT.. JUST A LITTLE CLOSER
BWAHA!
!!
splash
BIIIIIIIIIIII
IF YOU CAN HEAR THIS, ANSWER ME!
YAEKO-CHAN!
SANAE-CHAN!
ANNA-CHAN!

SHIT!
AT THIS RATE I'M NOT GOING TO CATCH UP...

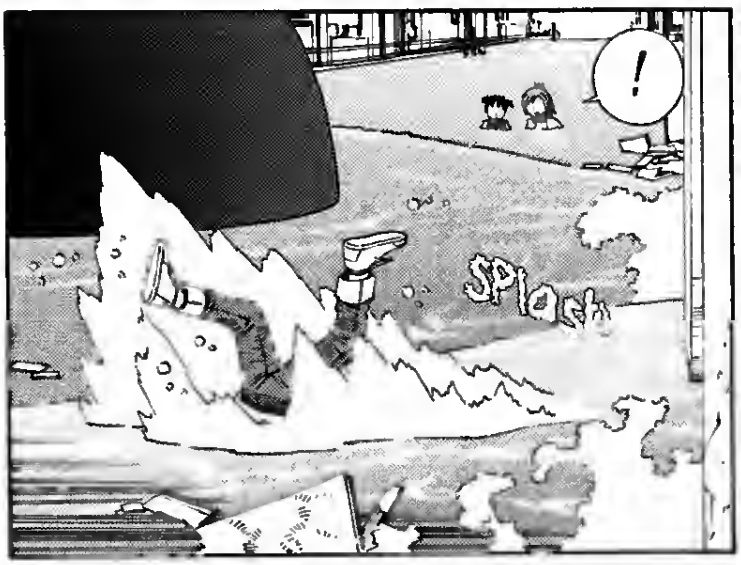
HUH?

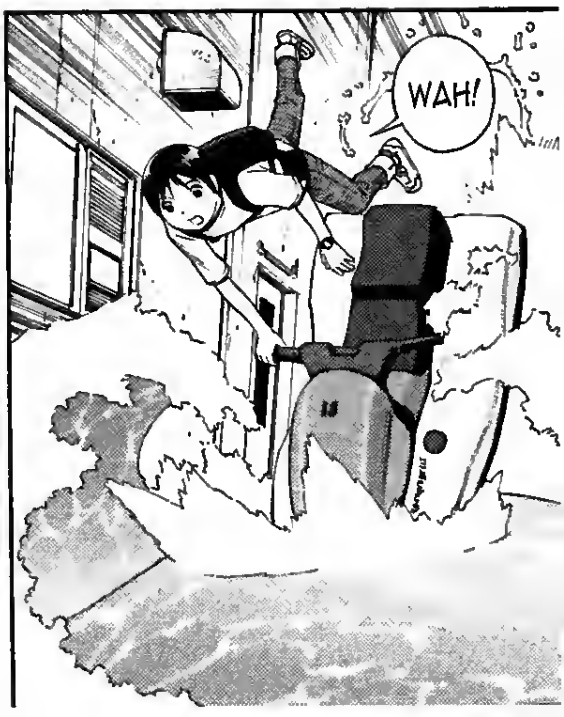
CRAP! ONE MORE TIME!!
GOT IT!
Splash



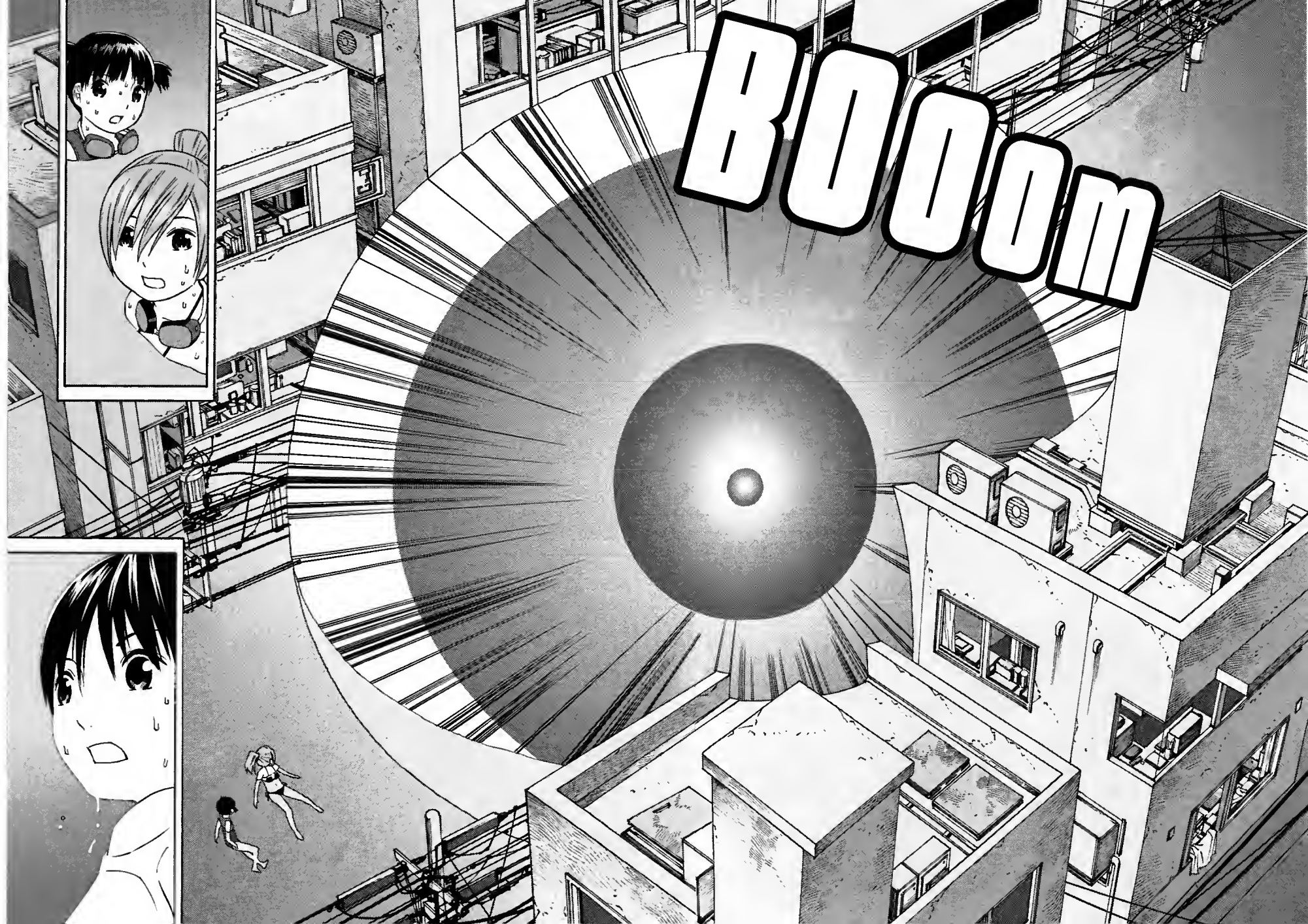

UWAAA!
WHOOOSH

...!
shhhhh


!
Splash

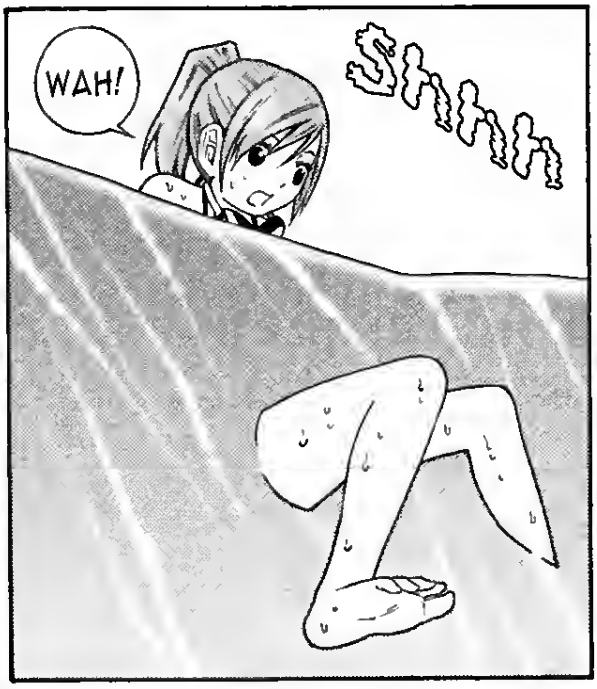

WAH!

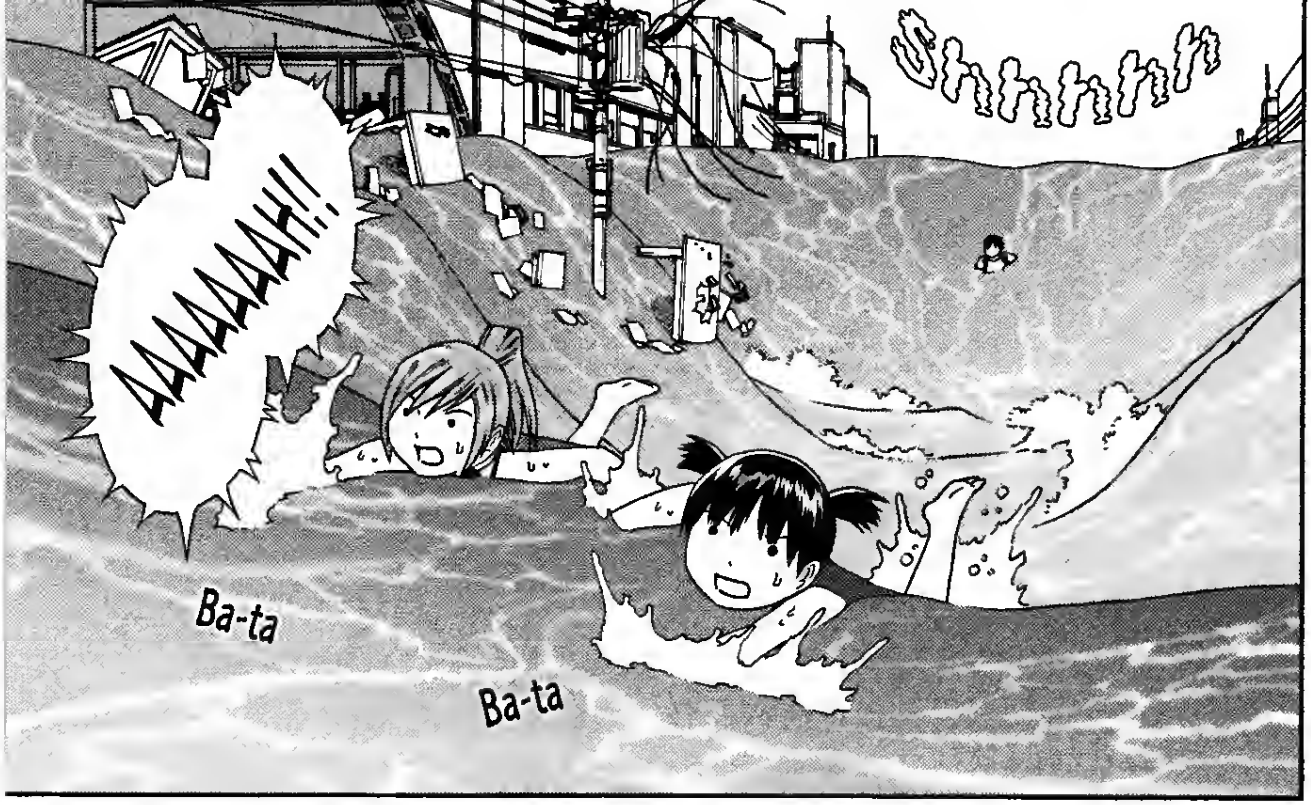
Wawawawawa
Wawawa
AAH!
MASA-SHI!
WHAT IS THIS THING?
...AN UNSTABLE PHANTOM!!
THIS IS...
BOKO
BOKO
BOKO
...!
WHAT? A PHAN-TOM!?
HURRY! GET AWAY FROM IT! GO!!

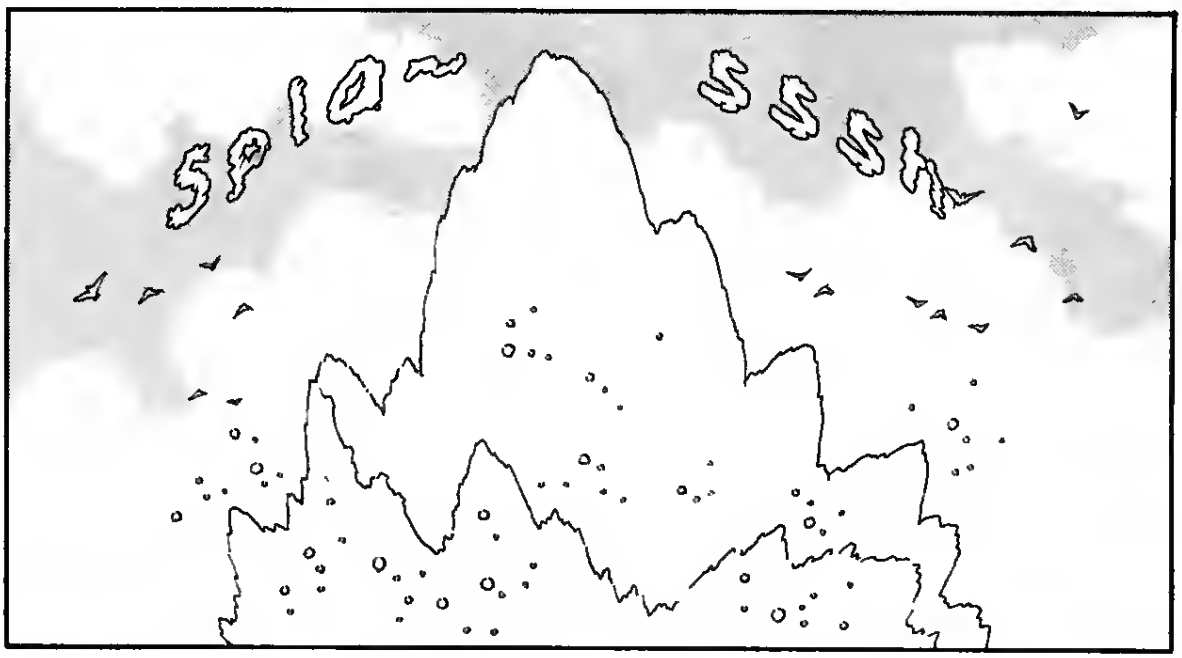

BOOOm

IT'S...
IT'S GONE!?

Shshsh


WAH!
Shshsh


Ghahah
AAAAAAAH!!
Ba-ta
Ba-ta


Spla
sssss

pi
hyororo

I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO DIE...
SHE WAS PRETTY FAR FROM HERE, SO SHE SHOULD BE FINE.
DON'T WORRY ...
HAVE YOU SEEN SANAE-CHAN?

UNSTA-BLE
PHANTOM

ANNA HAS SEEN UNSTABLE PHANTOMS LIKE THAT BEFORE!

BUT THIS IS ANNA'S FIRST TIME SEEING ONE SO BIG!
YEAH
EVEN WHEN IT'S NOT ATTACKING PEOPLE, IT BALLS UP, QUIVERS, AND THEN VANISHIES.

TN: SEE BACK TNS FOR AN EXPLANATION
SFX: CHABU - SOUND OF ROWING
I'D ACTUALLY SAY THAT IT WAS MORE LIKE A
BLACK HOLE... THE WAY THAT EVERY-THING IN PROXIMITY WAS SUCKED UP AND VANISHED IN AN INSTANT...
AN UNSTABLE PHANTOM, HUH?
IT'S LIKELY CALLED THAT BECAUSE THEY EXPLODE.
IT GAVE YOU THE IMPRESSION OF A BLACK HOLE?
KIND OF...
BUT I'M NOT REALLY SURE.
AH! THERE YOU ALL ARE!
YOU'RE BACK!
WELCOME BACK
chabu
chabu
SANAE-CHAN!

AHAHA
TOLD YOU I COULD SWIM!
YOU KNOW... MY GLASSES ACTUALLY FELL INTO THE WATER EARLIER AND I HAD TO RECOVER THEM ALL BY MYSELF...
HEHEH
HA HA HA
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
YOU'RE TOO MUCH, SANAE-CHAN!

TRANSLATION NOTES

THERE'S NOT MUCH IN THE WAY OF TRANSLATION NOTES THIS WEEK. THERE WERE A LOT OF SOUND EFFECTS.

UNSTABLE PHNATOM (P 88) - I DID WANT TO BRIEFLY MENTION THAT "UNSTABLE PHANTOM" IS NOT ACTUALLY THE WORDING USED IN THIS CHAPTER. ANNA ACTUALLY SAYS "GUAI NO WARUI FANTOMU" (具合の悪いファントム), WHICH CAN BE TRANSLATED AS "PHANTOMS THAT CAUSE YOU TO FEEL BAD". ON PAGE 88, YAKEO EXPLAINS THAT ANNA LIKELY CALLS IT THIS BECAUSE IT GIVES YOU A BAD FEELING IN THE PIT OF YOUR STOMACH. EVEN THOUGH THE WORDING ISN'T THE QUITE THE SAME, IT'S MUCH EASIER TO REFER TO IT THIS WAY THAN SAYING "PHANTOMS THAT CAUSE YOU TO FEEL BAD" EVERY TIME.

A lot has hapened this week. There were a few deadlines that I needed to make before I could finish this chapter. I'm also visiting family, so that delayed my ability to finish on time since I rarely have the opportunity to see them anymore. Furthmore, this chapter was filled with more sound effects than there are calories in a meal prepared by Epic Meal Time, so that took some time to sort out. Additionally there were two sets of two pages that required me to stitch them together. To do that I had to redraw a good portion of the page. As a result, all these little things amounted to one major delay. I hope you still enjoy the chapter. I wil try harder to be on time next chapter.

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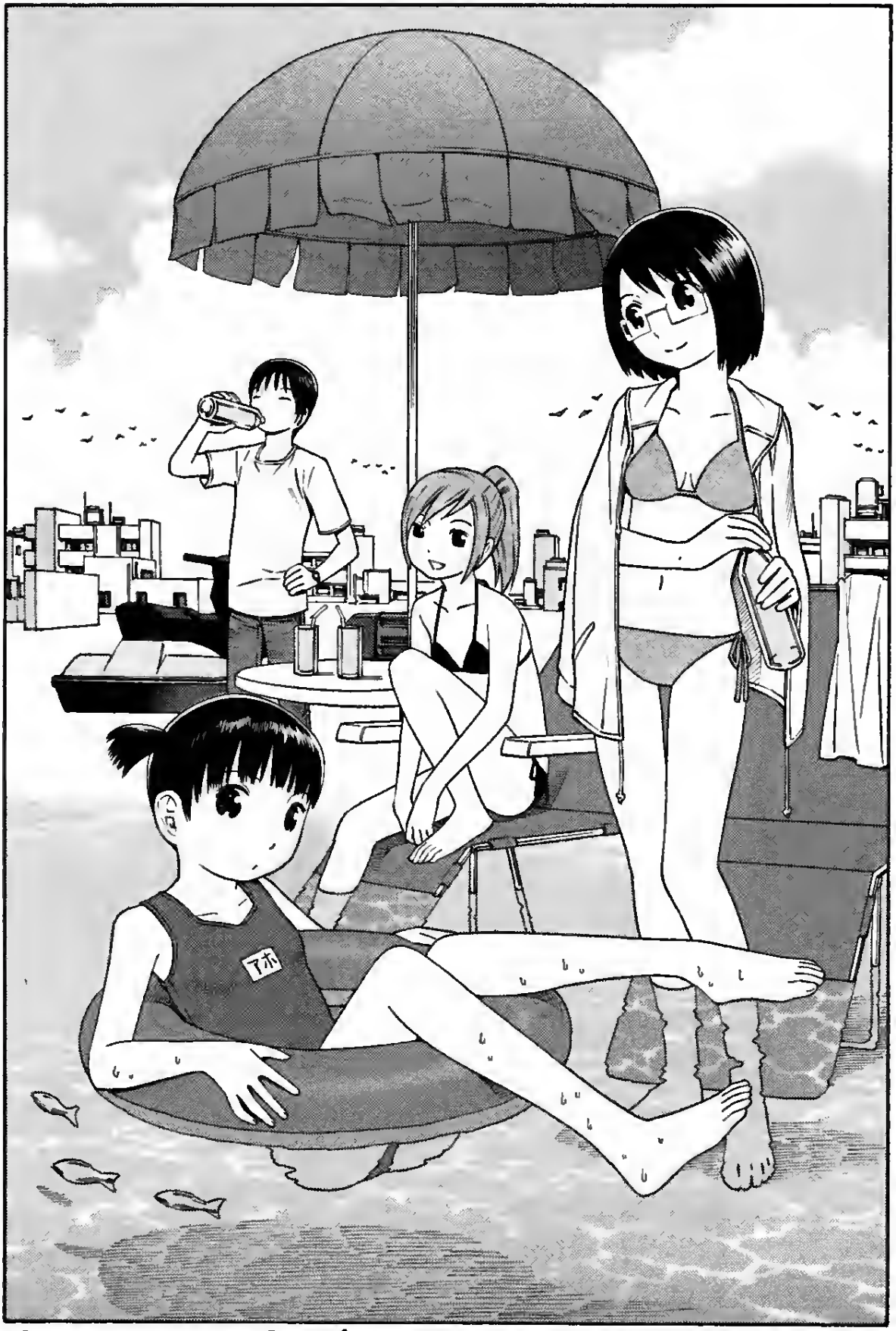
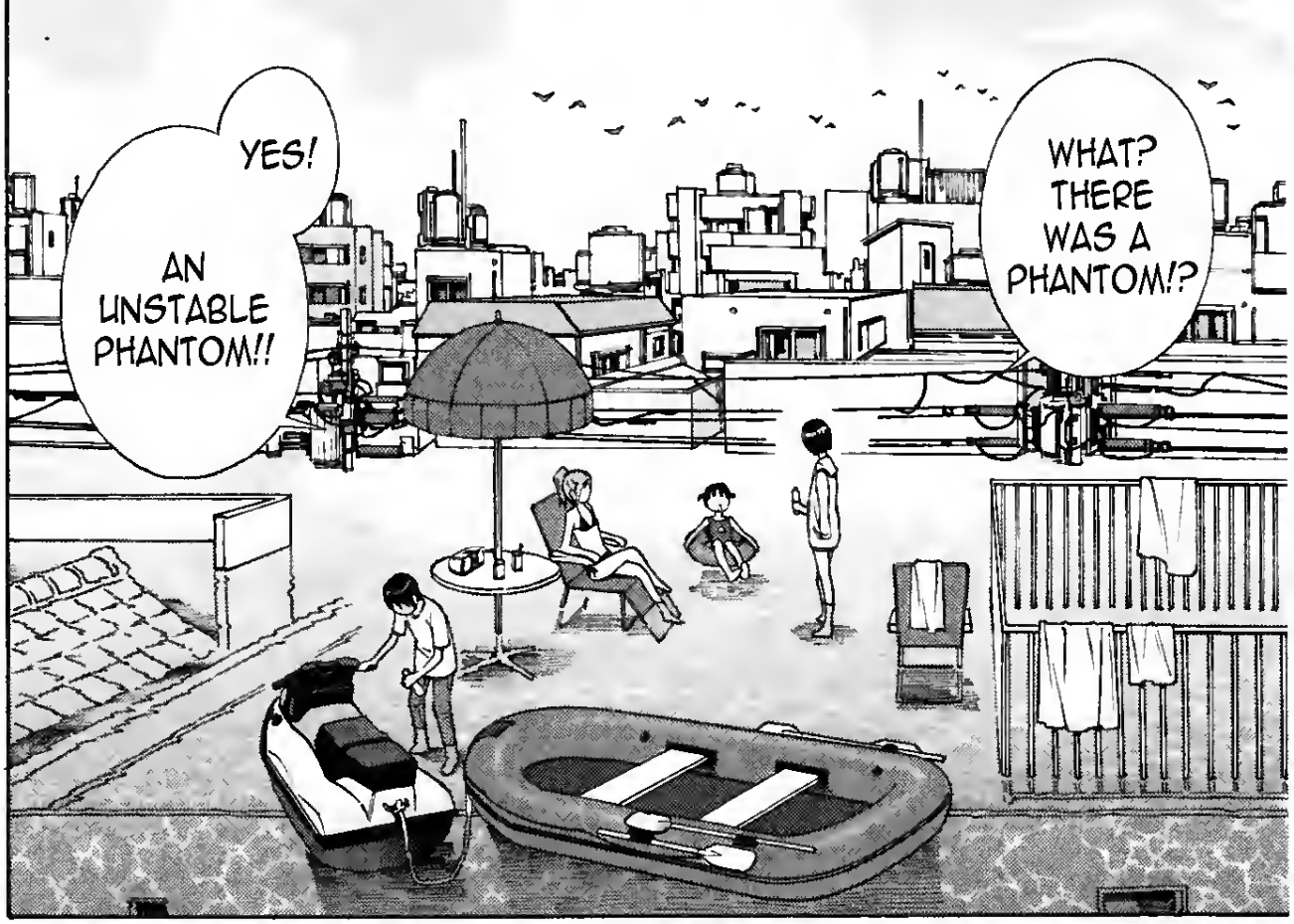
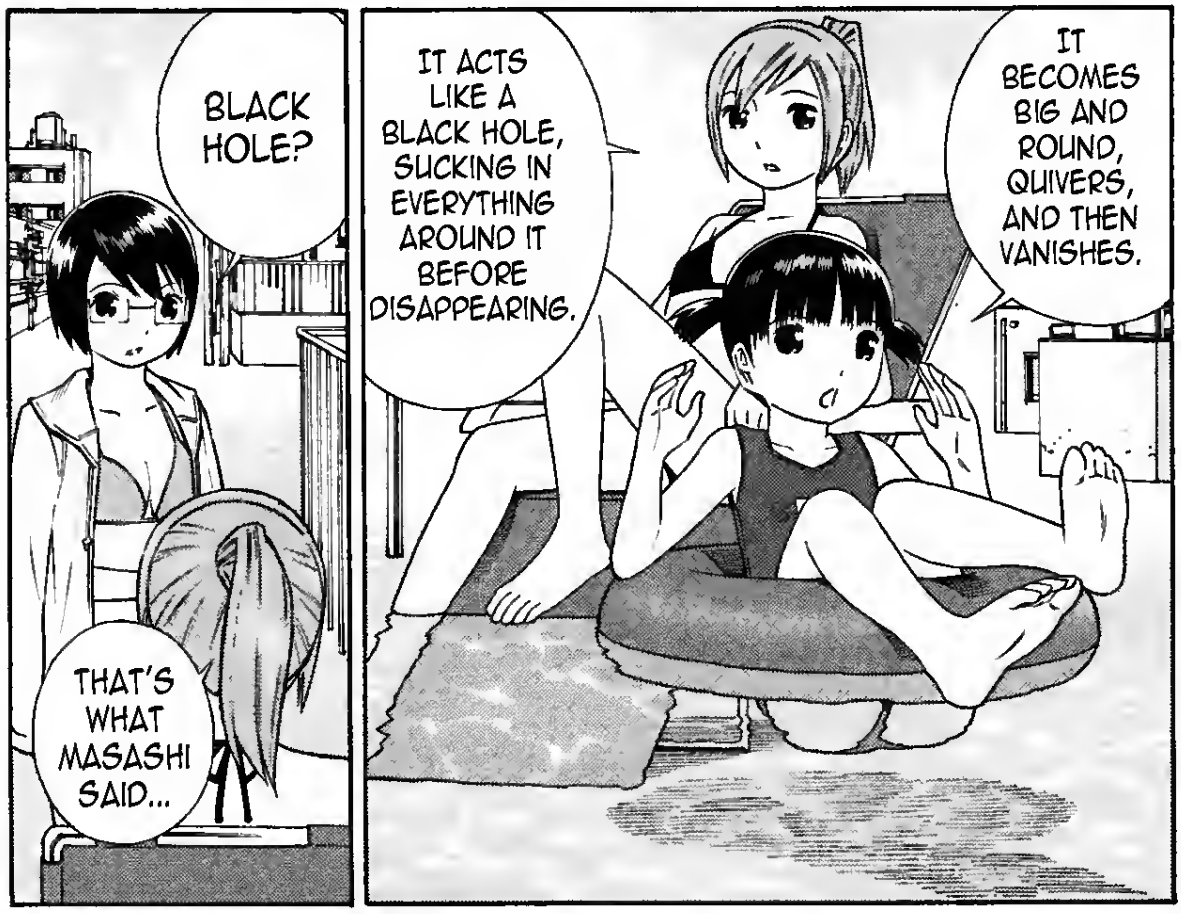


AFTER10／Walking on Water

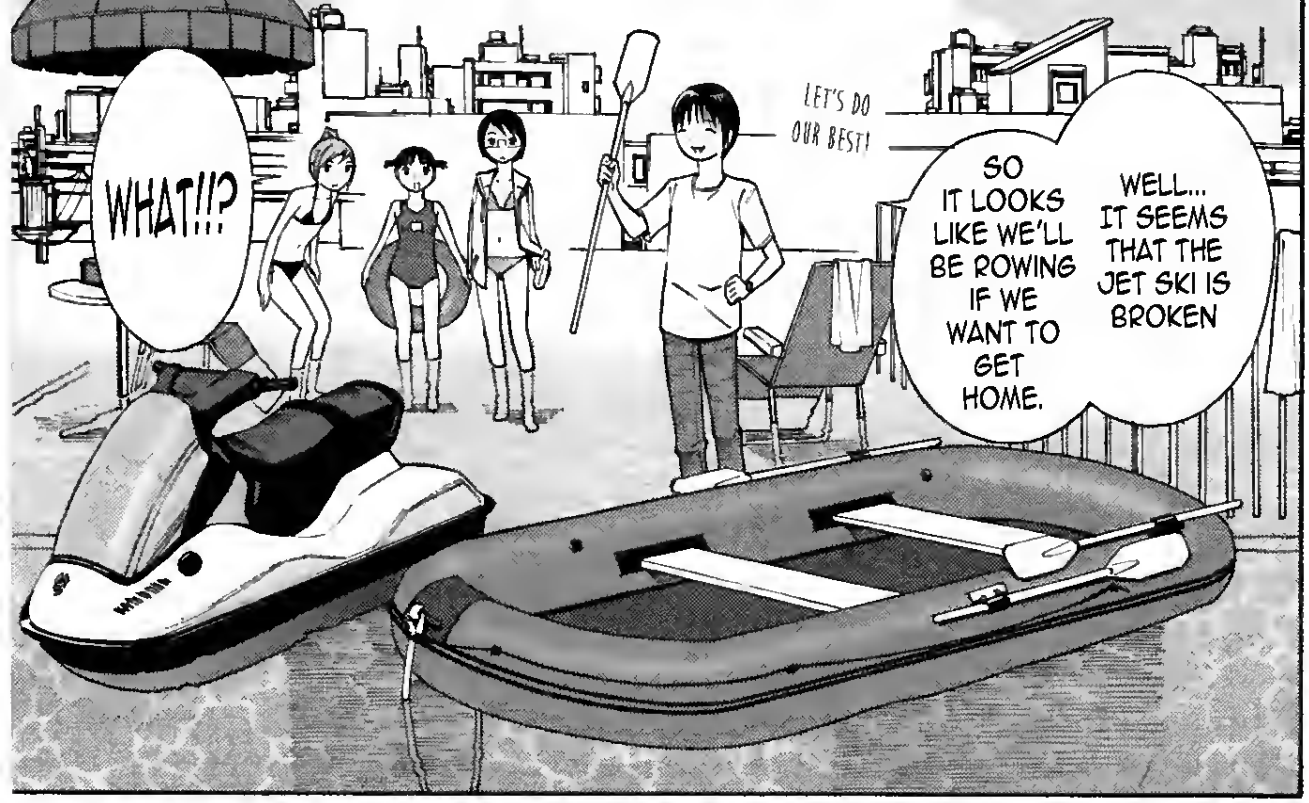

YES!
AN UNSTABLE PHANTOM!!
WHAT? THERE WAS A PHANTOM!?


BLACK HOLE?
THAT'S WHAT MASASHI SAID...
IT ACTS LIKE A BLACK HOLE, SUCKING IN EVERYTHING AROUND IT BEFORE DISAPPEARING.
IT BECOMES BIG AND ROUND, QUIVERS, AND THEN VANISHES.

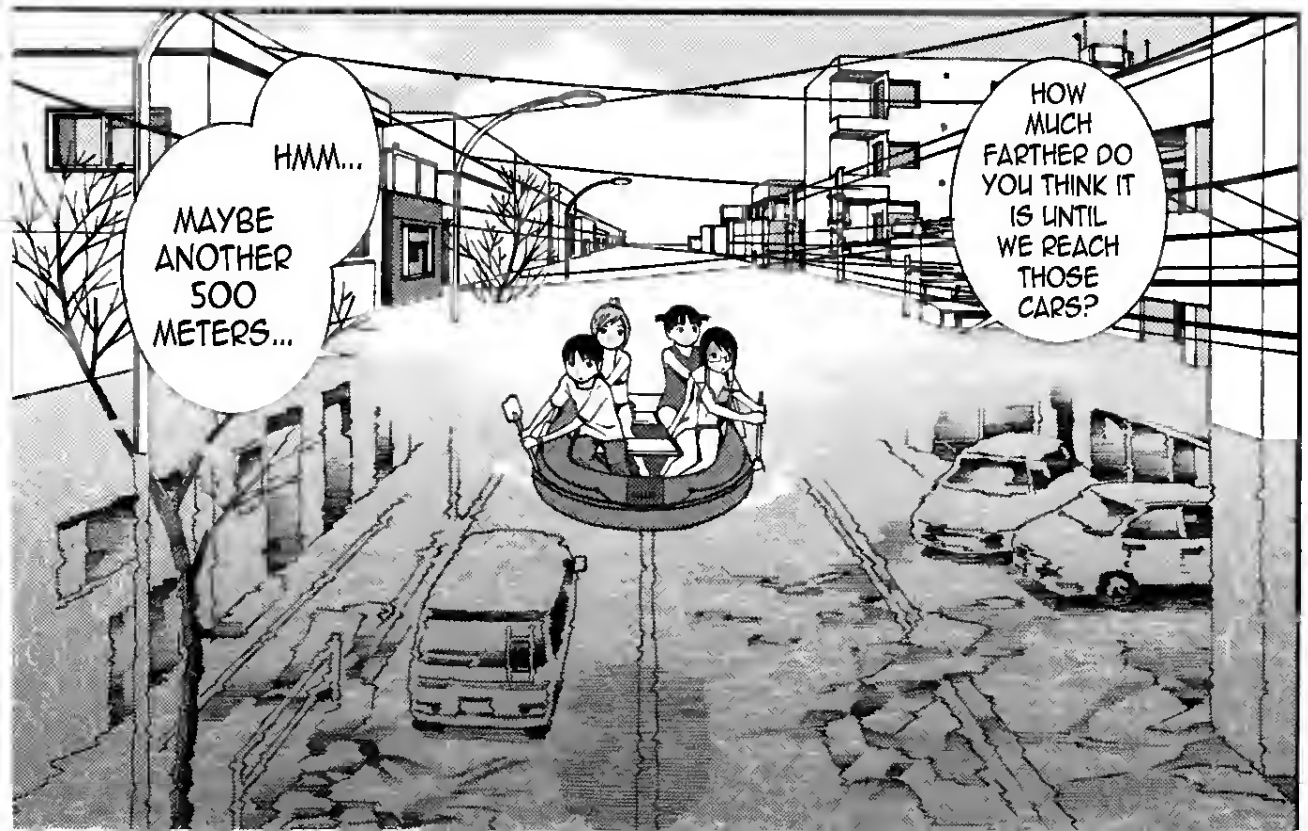
...SO THERE MIGHT BE SOME RELATION BETWEEN THEM AND THAT TIME WHEN SANAE AND I LEAPT* THROUGH TIME.
AFTER ALL, JUST LIKE BLACK HOLES, THEY SEEM TO WARP TIME...
HOWEVER, WE SHOULDN'T DISMISS THE POSSBILITY OF THEM BEING BLACK HOLES.

TN: YOUKAI – JAPANESE SPIRITS OR DEMONS (SEE VOL 2 CHAPTER 6 FOR A FULL EXPLANATION)
TN: JAPANESE OFTEN SAY "LEAPT THROUGH TIME" OR "TIME JUMP" WHEN REFERING TO TIME TRAVEL

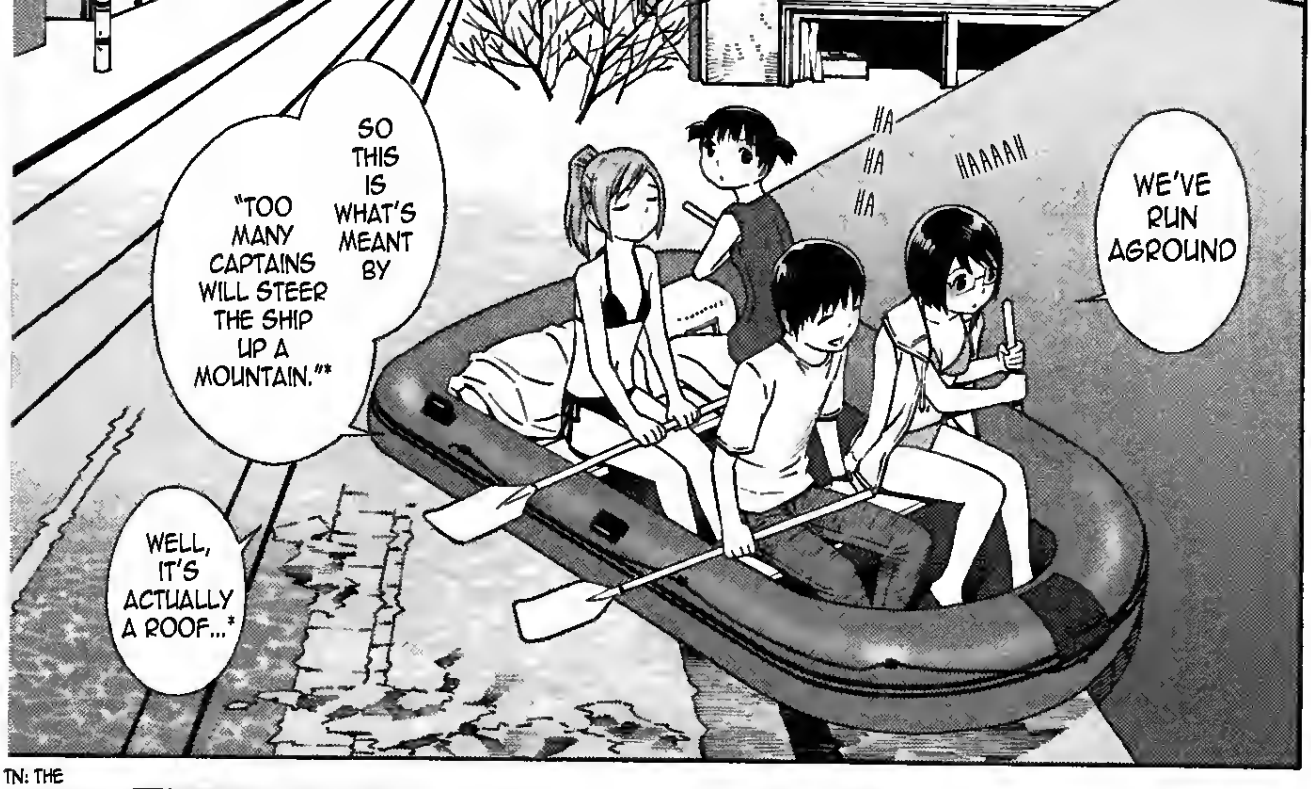
IS THAT TIME LEAP STORY
REALLY TRUE?
AH, SO YOU REALLY DON'T BELIEVE US...
I'M TELLING YOU IT'S TRUE...
IN ANY CASE...
IN ANY CASE..
...WE CAN DISCUSS THE MYSTERY OF THE PHANTOMS LATER... RIGHT NOW, OUR FIRST PRIORITY SHOULD BE DEALING WITH THE CRISIS AT HAND.
W-
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY CRISIS?


WHAT!!?
WELL... IT SEEMS THAT THE JET SKI IS BROKEN
SO IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE ROWING IF WE WANT TO GET HOME.
LET'S DO OUR BEST!

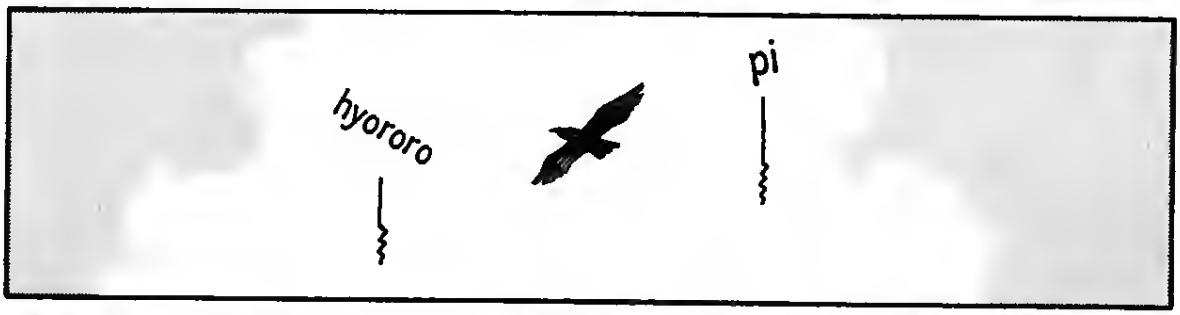
Basha
Basha

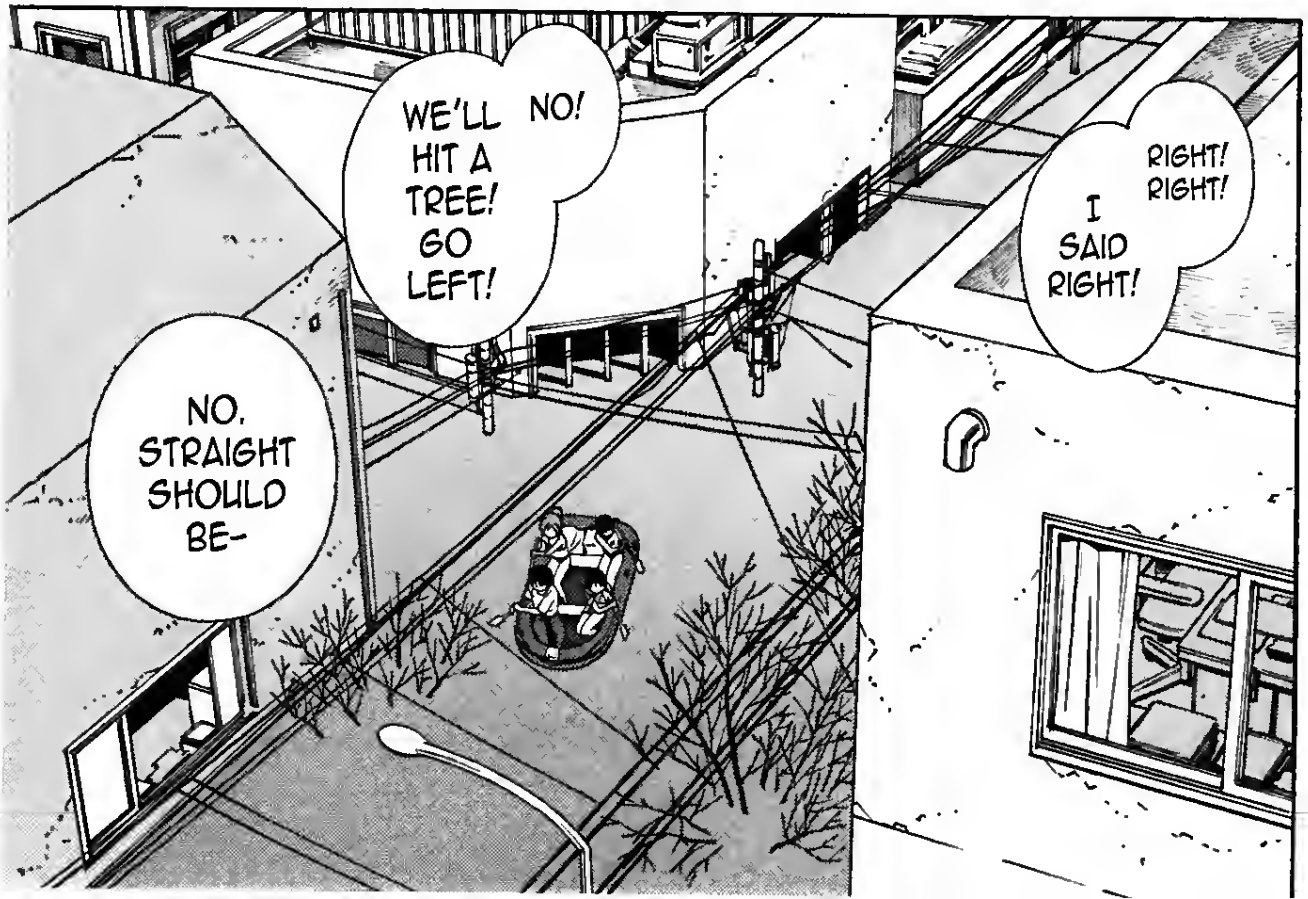

HMM... MAYBE ANOTHER 500 METERS...
HOW MUCH FARTHER DO YOU THINK IT IS UNTIL WE REACH THOSE CARS?

TO THE LEFT!
NO! NO! WE'LL HIT A SIGN!
RIGHT! EVERYONE TO THE RIGHT!
AH! THERE'S A POWER LINE!
WE SHOULD BE FINE IF WE CONTINUE STRAIGHT!
NO... STRAIGHT AHEAD!
Thud
HEY! HELP US!
KNOCK IT OFF!
BACK PEDAL!!
Splash
Splash


WE'VE RUN AGROUND
HA HA HA
HAAAAH
SO THIS IS WHAT'S MEANT BY "TOO MANY CAPTAINS WILL STEER THE SHIP UP A MOUNTAIN."*
WELL, IT'S ACTUALLY A ROOF...*

TN: THE JAPANESE EQUIVALENT TO THE ENGLISH IDIOM: "TOO MANY COOKS SPOIL THE BROTH / RUIN THE SOUP". I LEFT IT SINCE IT LITERALLY MAKES SENSE IN THIS CONTEXT.

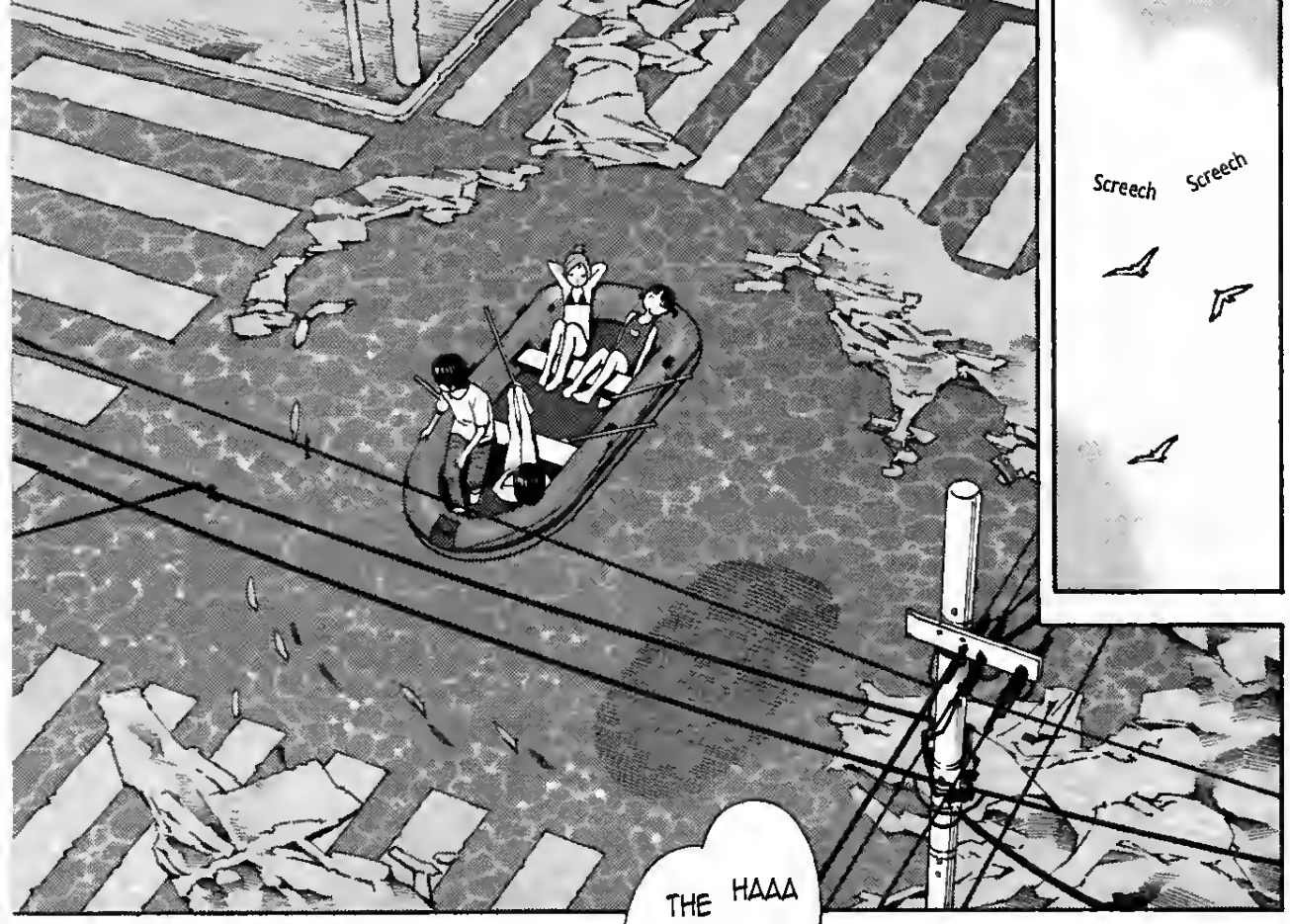




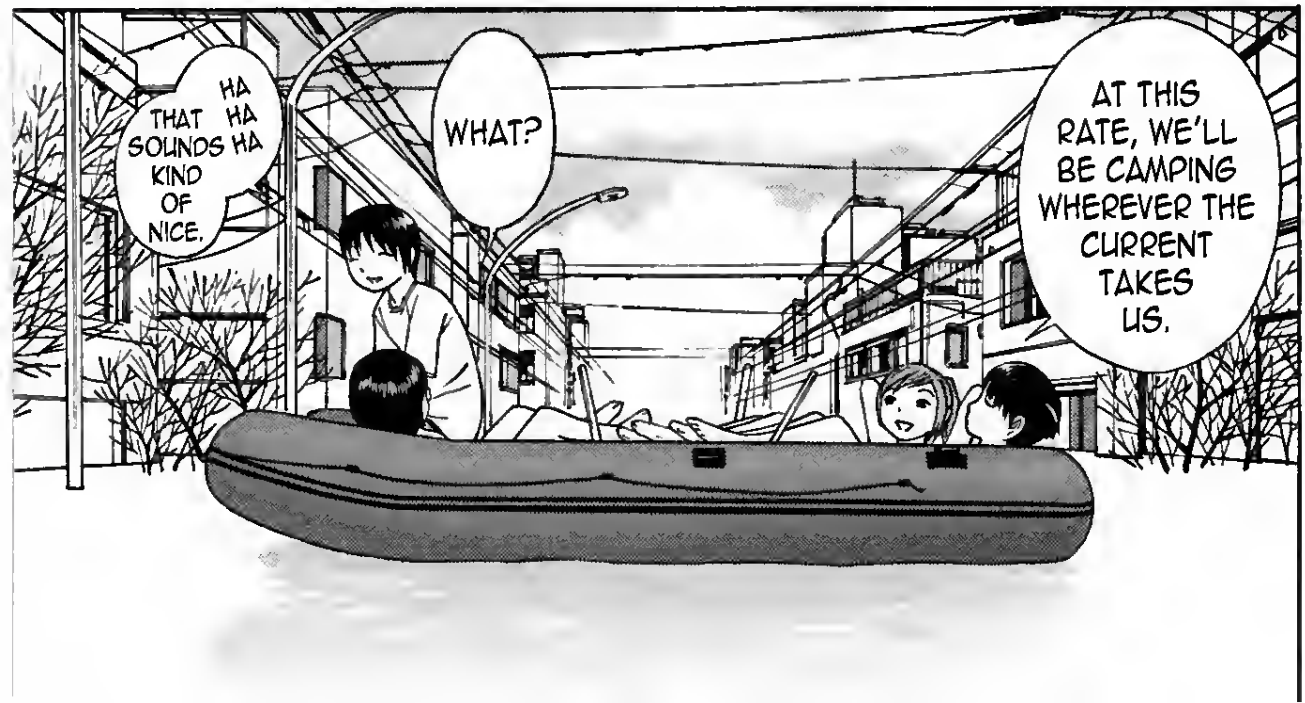
HUH?
GRAB
Fool
HEY! SIT DOWN!
ムキー!!
Fool
WE'RE NOT MAKING ANY PROGRESS!
AAAAAH!
Squeak Squeak
DON'T LEAVE ME!!
WHAT IS SHE DOING?
YOU IDIOT!
NOW YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SWIM TO US!

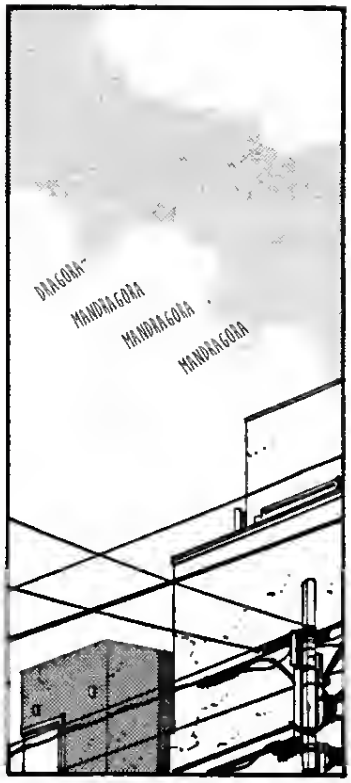
HUH?
UWAAH!
AH! CAREFUL MASASHI-KUN!
POWER LINE!
OW OW
AAAAAAH!
HYAA!
S-SORRY
MASASHI! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

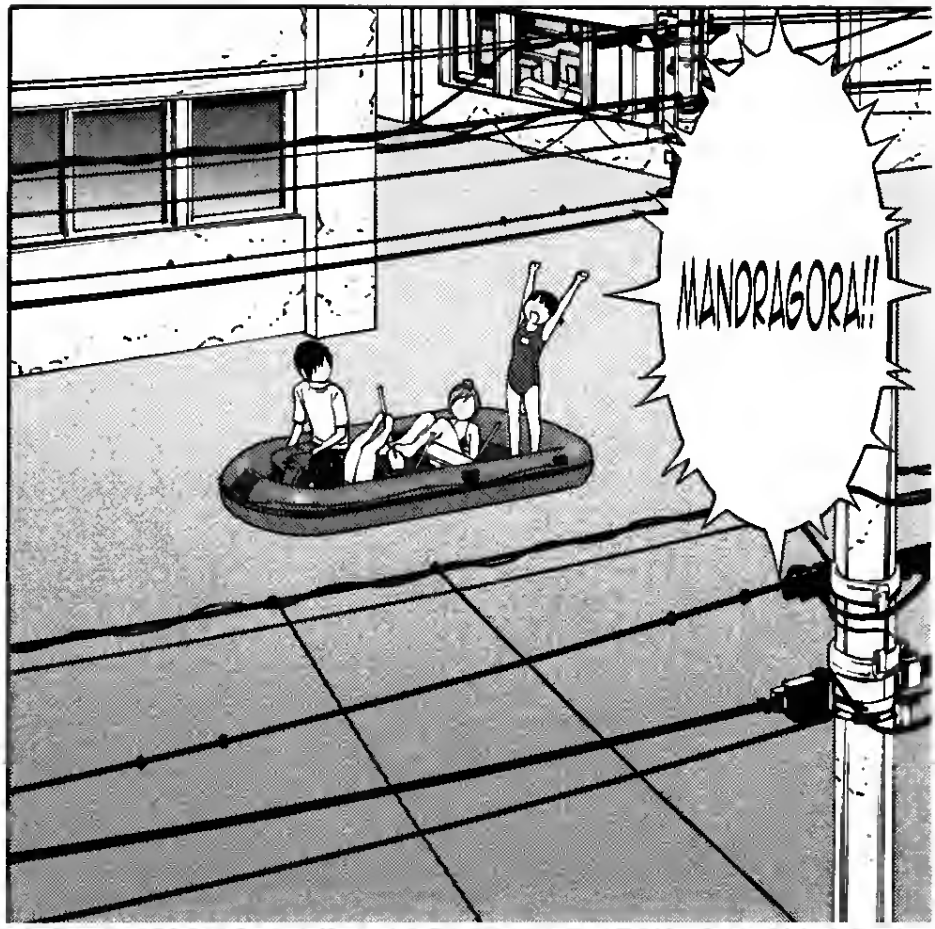
ONLY ANNA WAS SAVED
ANNA HAS GREAT LUCK!
FU HA HA HA HA
ANNA'S THE GREAT-EST!!
Fool
OH!
THEY CAP-SIZED.
Crash
Snap!
Crash
Bwuha!



SFX: CHAPO IS THE SOUND OF BOBBING IN THE WATER.



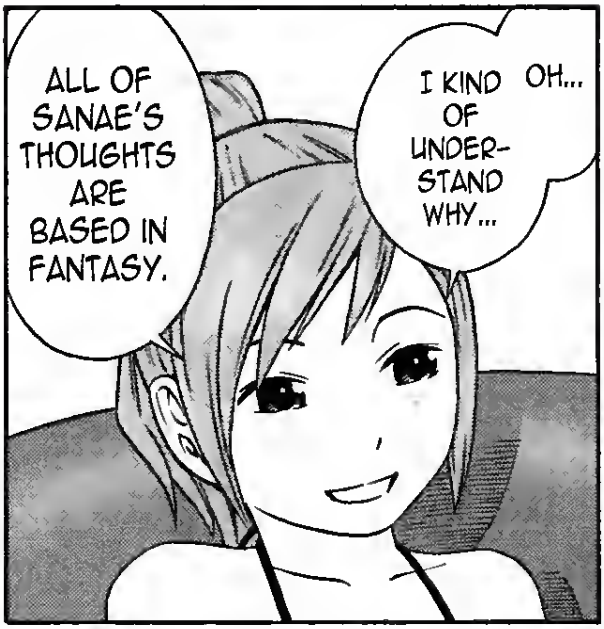


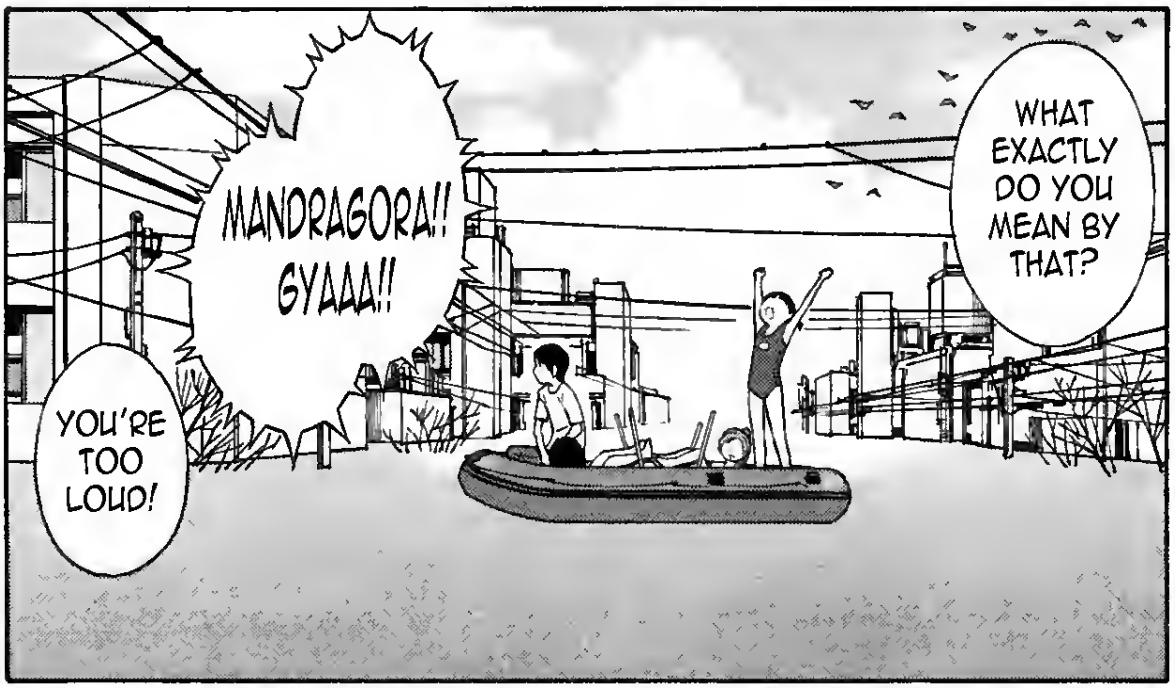


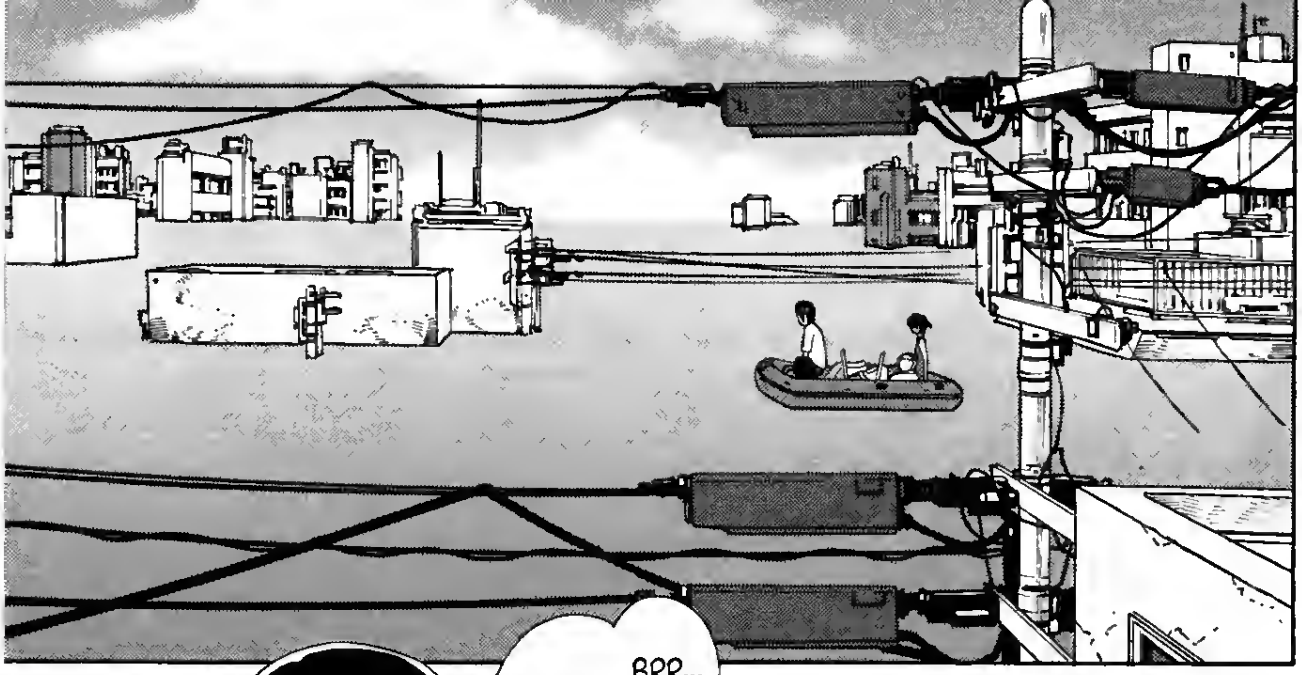
TN: I BELIEVE THAT A A FANCY SHOP SELLS A VARIETY OF ITEMS. MANY OF THESE ITEMS ARE CHEAP AND COSMETIC IN NATURE. I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ONE BEFORE THIS. THE NAME "MANDRAGORA" MIGHT BE A SHOUTOUT TO THE JAPANESE SHOP CALLED "MANDRAKE", WHICH SELLS MANGA, ANIME, AND DOJINSHI.

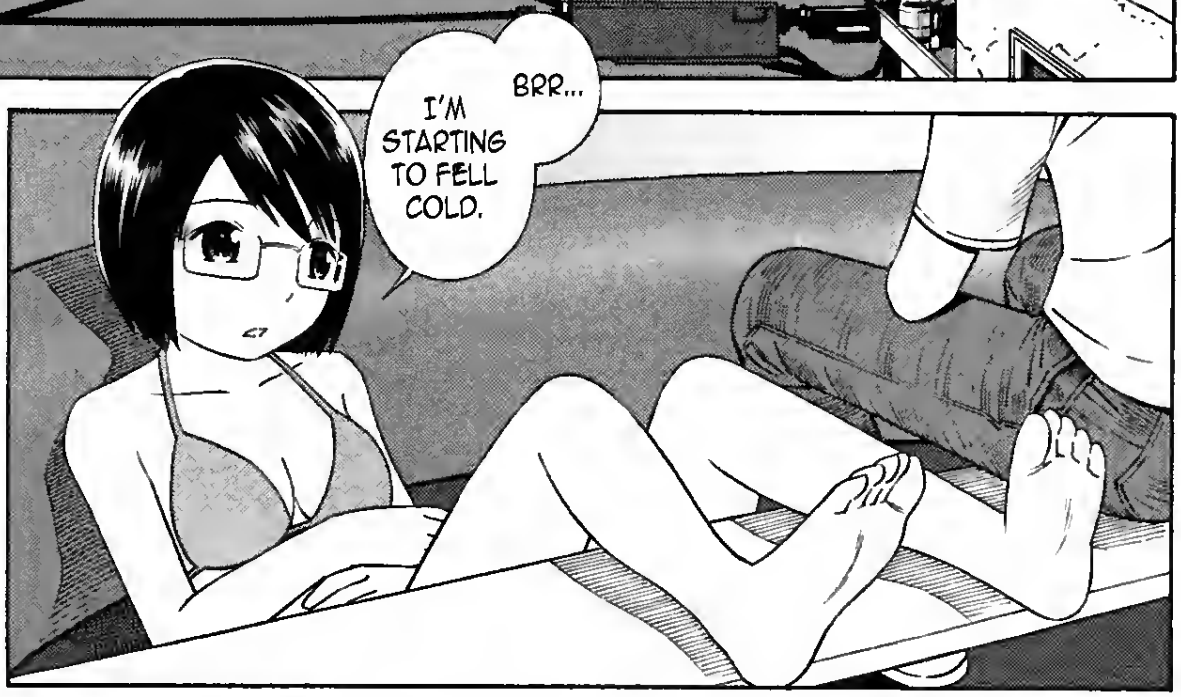
WHY'RE YOU YELLING SO SUDDENLY
SO NOISY.
WHAT'S A "MANDRAGORA"?
DON'T KNOW.
I KNOW WHAT IT IS.
MANDRAGORA, OFTEN CALLED MANDRAKES, ARE A TYPE OF PLANT THAT OFTEN SHOW UP IN FANTASY NOVELS.
ITS ROOT RESEMBLES THE FORM OF A HUMAN AND IT PRODUCES A TYPE OF NEUROTOXIN.
ALSO ACCORDING TO FOLKLORE, WHEN YOU PULL THEM FROM THE GROUND,
THEY LET OUT A SHRIEK THAT DRIVES ALL WHO DIRECTLY HEAR IT TO MADNESS OR DEATH.
REALLY?
YOU SEEM QUITE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THIS...

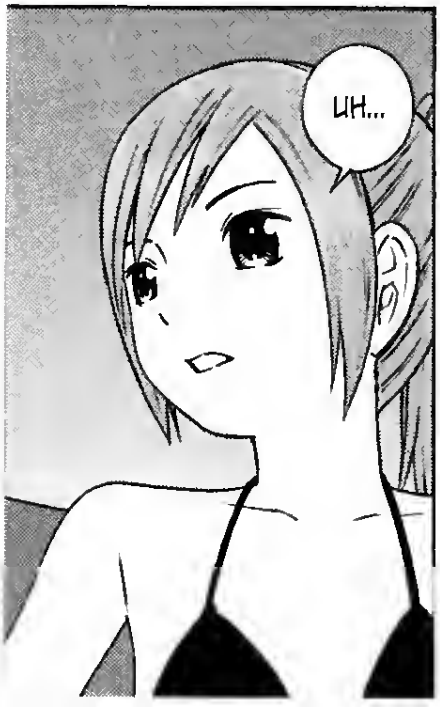
TN: "GYAA" IS ONE THE MANY SOUNDS IN JAPANESE THAT SOUNDS LIKE A SCREAM, OR IN THIS CASE, A MANDRAKE'S SHRIEK.

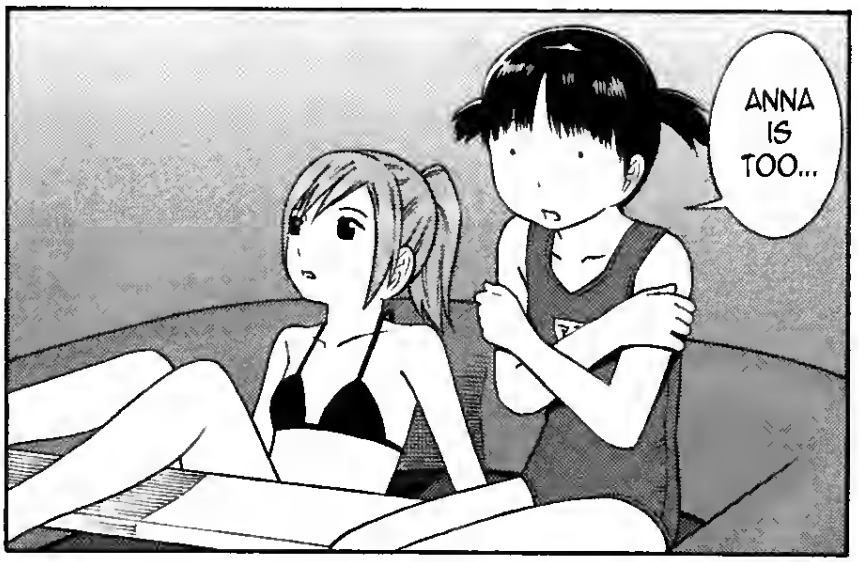







BRR...
I'M STARTING TO FELL COLD.


UH...

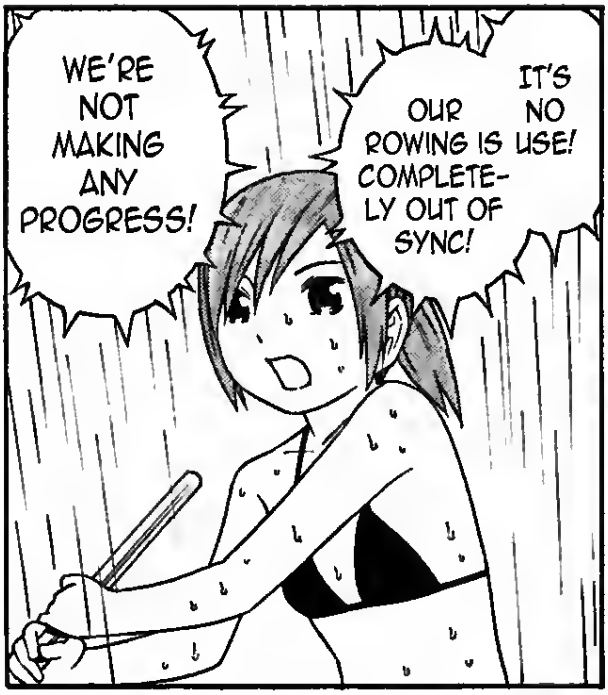

ANNA IS TOO...

SFX: "BYUU" IS THE SOUND OF THUNDER.

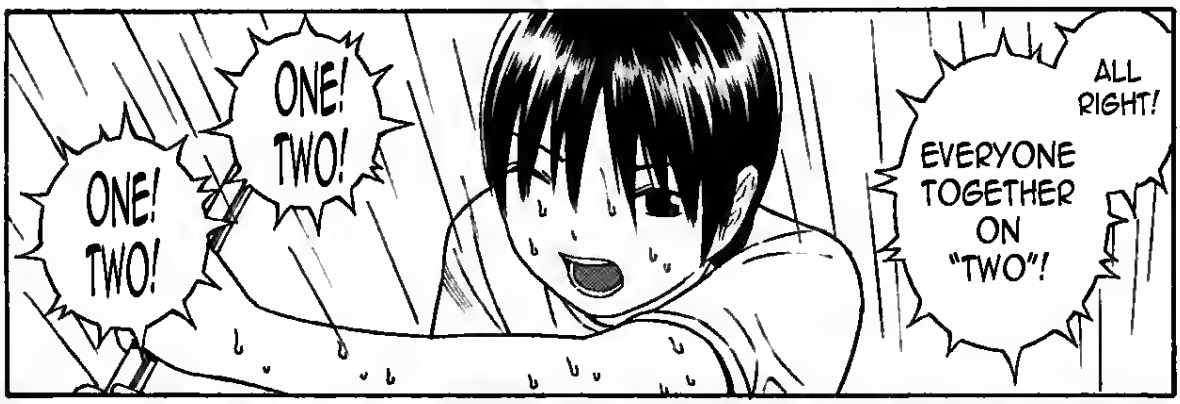
"KAA" IS THE SOUND OF LIGHTNING (THOUGH IT'S ALSO REALLY THUNDER) STRIKING SOMETHING.

"GORO" IS THE ROLL OF THUNDER.

SFX: "ZAA" IS THE SOUND OF A HEAVY DOWNPOUR


WE'RE NOT MAKING ANY PROGRESS!
OUR ROWING IS COMPLETELY OUT OF SYNC!
IT'S NO USE!

Splash
Splash


ONE! TWO!
ONE! TWO!
ALL RIGHT! EVERYONE TOGETHER ON "TWO"!

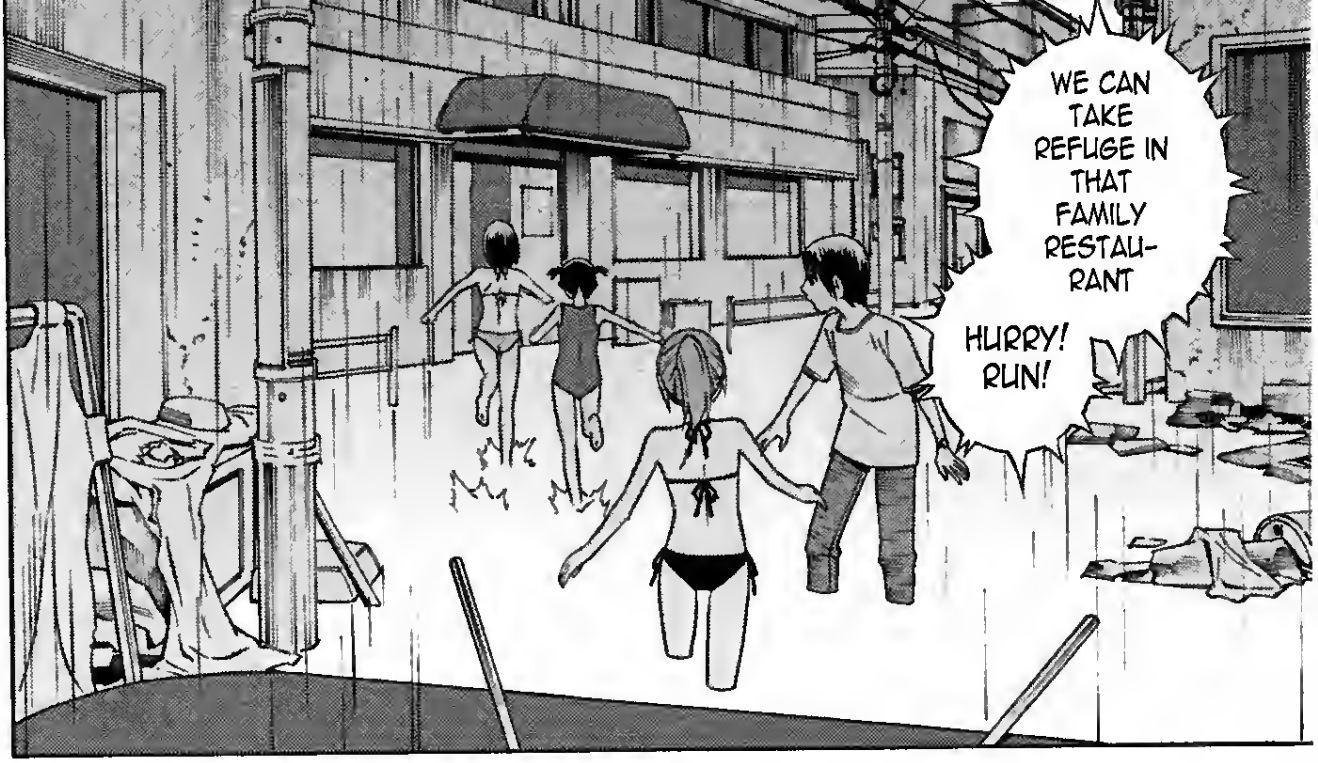
Kaa

ONE MORE TIME, BUT SLOWER!
THAT'S WAY TOO FAST!!
IT'S NOT WORKING!

MANDRAGORA!!
GYAA!
WHAT'S IT!?
WHAT?
THAT'S IT!!
THAT'S THE RHYTHM WE NEED!!
AND RETURN THE OARS TO THEIR STARTING POSITION ON "GYAA!"
WE ROW ON "MANDRA-GORA"

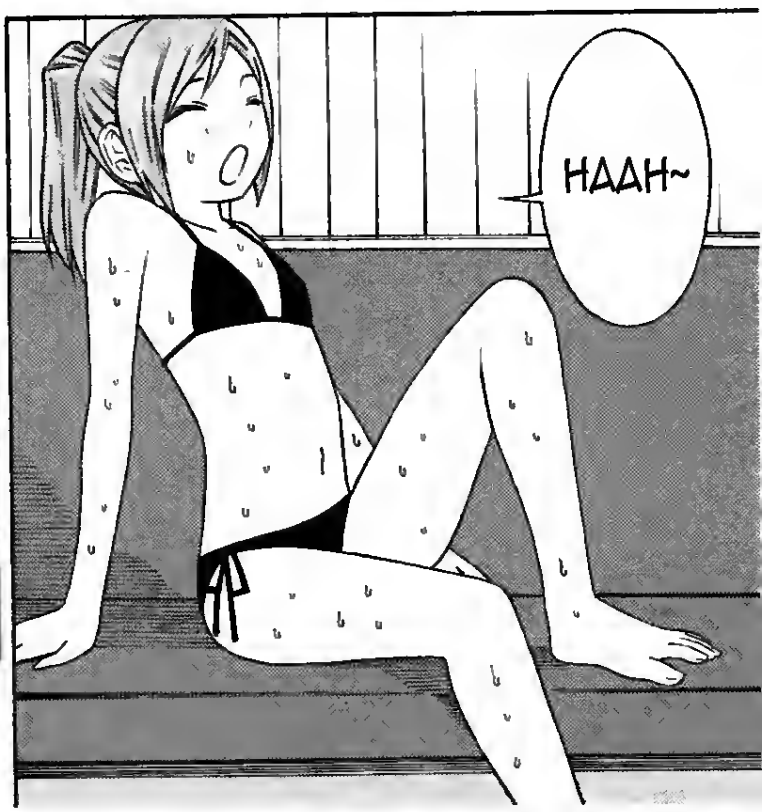
ZAZAAAAAAAAAAAA
MANDRA-GORA!!
GYAA!!
MANDRA-GORA!!
GYAA!!
MANDRA-GORA!!
GYAA!!
GYAA!!
MANDRA-GORA!!
MANDRA-GORA!!
GYAA!!
NICE WORK!
WE'RE DOING PRETTY WELL!

Ba-tsu
MANDRA-GORA!!
MANDRA-GORA!!
GYAA!!
THIS IS ACTUALLY KIND OF FUN...
HA HA HA
OKAY! THIS SHOULD BE FAR ENOUGH!
DO DO-n
GYAA!!


WE CAN TAKE REFUGE IN THAT FAMILY RESTAU-RANT
HURRY! RUN!

ZAAAAAAAAAAAA
GoroGoroGoro

WE'RE FINALLY SAFE.


HAAH~

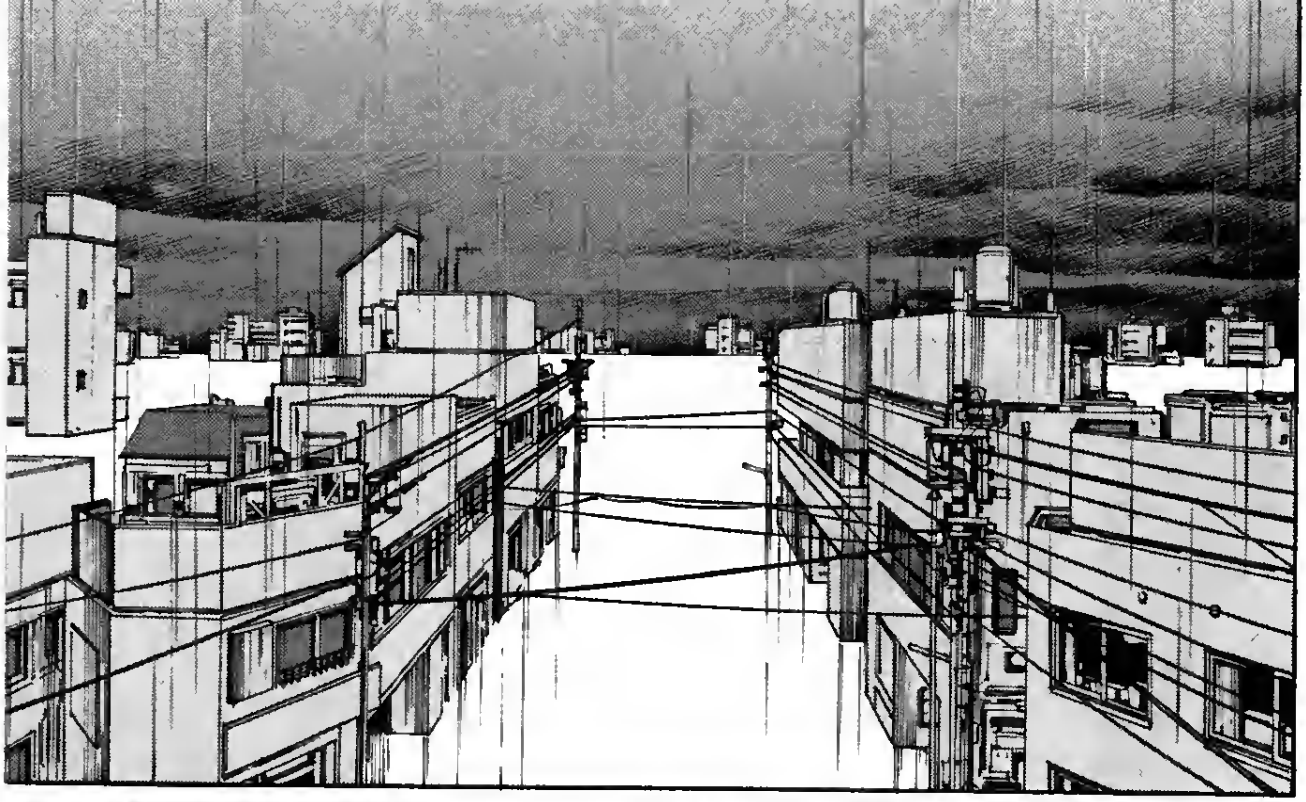
A-
ANNA-CHAN?

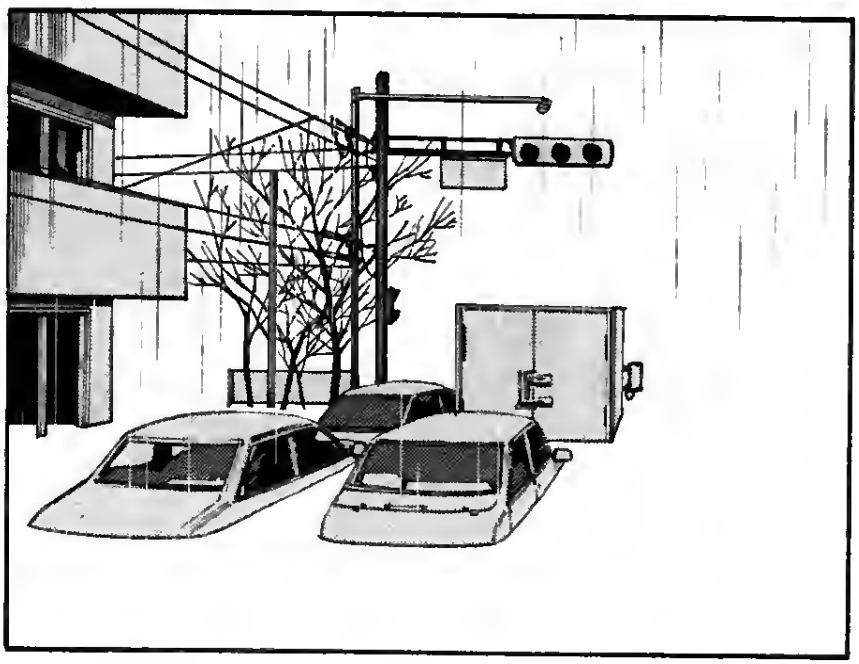
...!

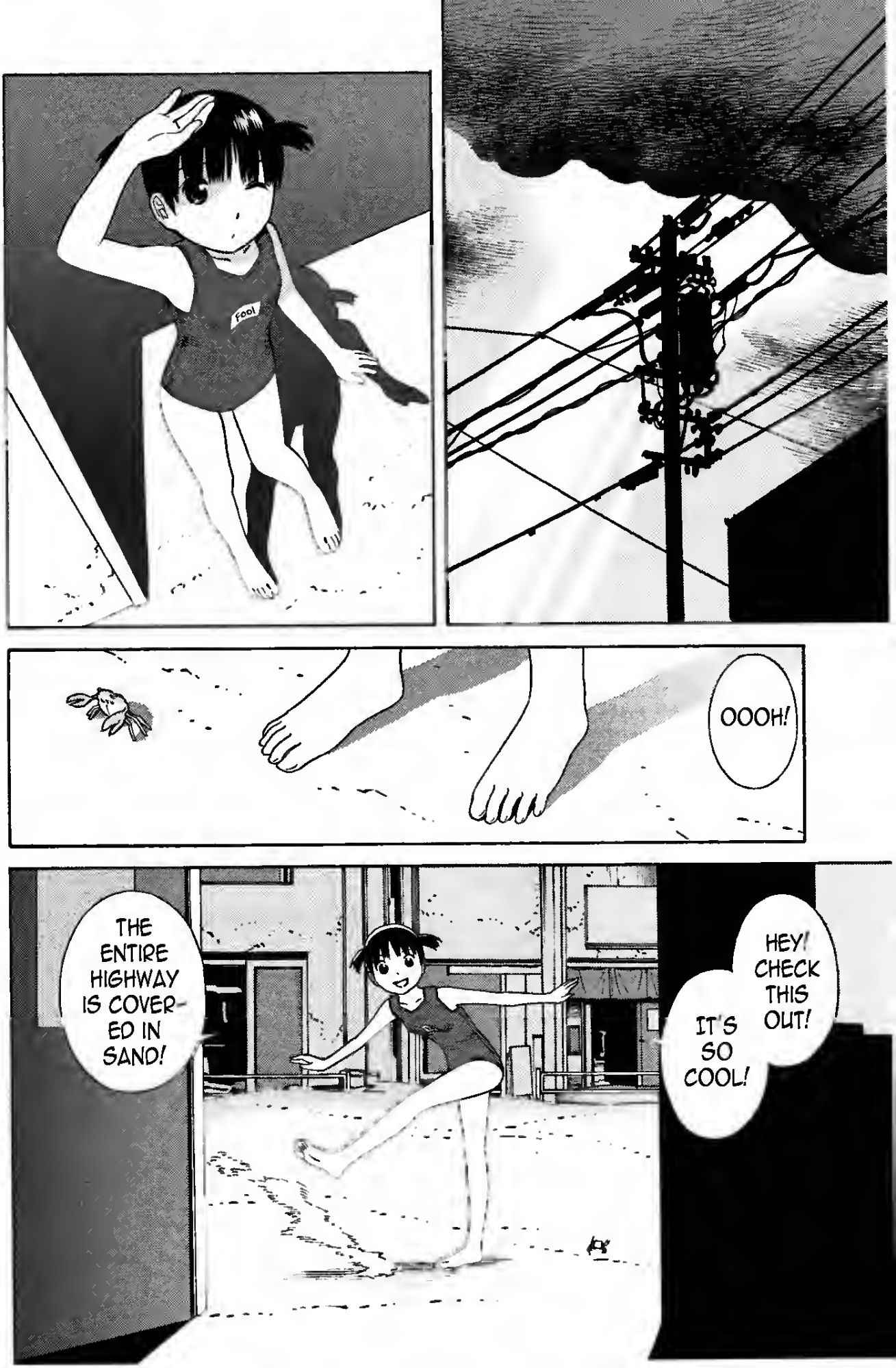
THE LIGHT-NING IS COMING ...
IT'S COMING ...

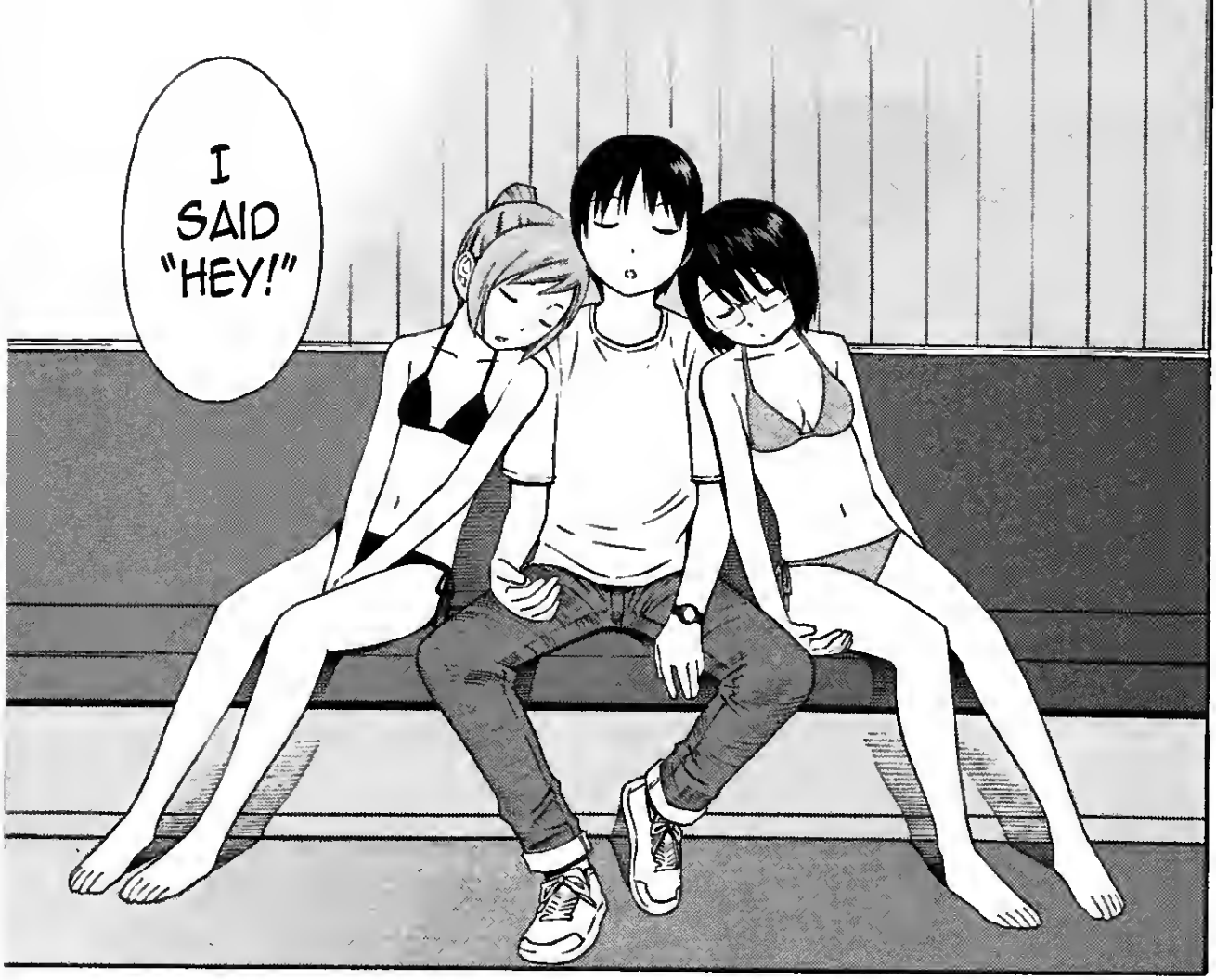
EVEN IF IT COMES HERE, YOU'LL BE SAFE.
YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

SFX: "SU" IS THE SOUND OF BREATHING WHILE SLEEPING; IT'S NOT SNORING

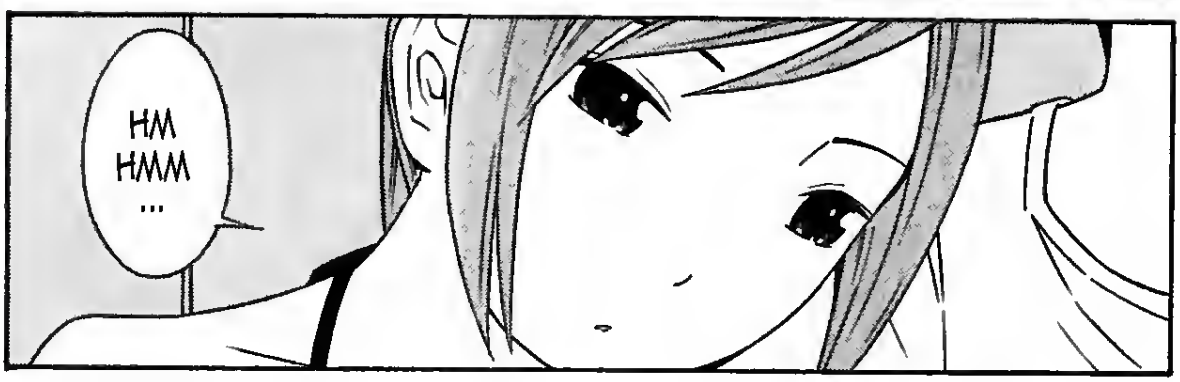





Fool
OOOH!
THE ENTIRE HIGHWAY IS COVERED IN SAND!
HEY! CHECK THIS OUT!
IT'S SO COOL!

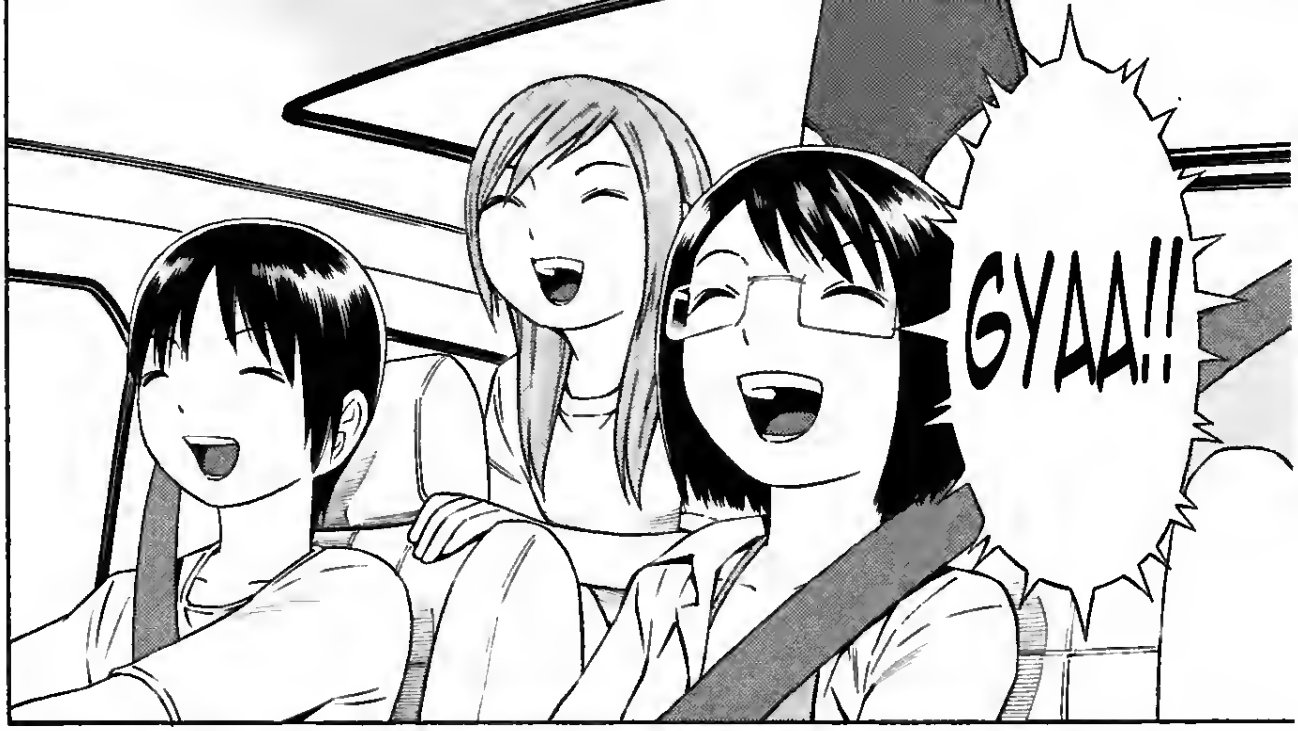

I SAID "HEY!"

HMM? ...


HM HMM ...

Swoosh
Swoosh
HM...
WHAT?
...
G-GOOD MORN-ING
MASASHI-KUN!
SORRY... IT LOOKS LIKE I DOSED OFF.
HA HA HA ...

VRRO
OOM
アホ
WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME WE HEADED HOME!
IT FINALLY LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO GET SOME SUN.
Ba-shu
YAHOO!
MANDRAGORA!!


GYAA!!

LOOK! A RAIN-BOW!
AHAHAHAHAHA!

This chapter was fun translating. I feel like I say that about every chapter in this manga, but I guess that's why I'm translating it. Though typesetting the last few chapters has been quite involved, I can't say I've hated it. Finding the right way to place the text truly is an art and I have a lot of respect for everyone who typesets sound effects in manga or signs in anime. I'm also very thankful to all those out there who clean the raws. Cleaning and redrawing take real skill in many cases and can only be described as painful if you've under a deadline. It can feel therapeutic when there are no time constraints. Well, I hope you enjoy the chapter! I'm beginning the translation for the following chapter today, so hopefully I'll have that done before I'm traveling again. If not, there's plenty of time on the airplane.

Champion
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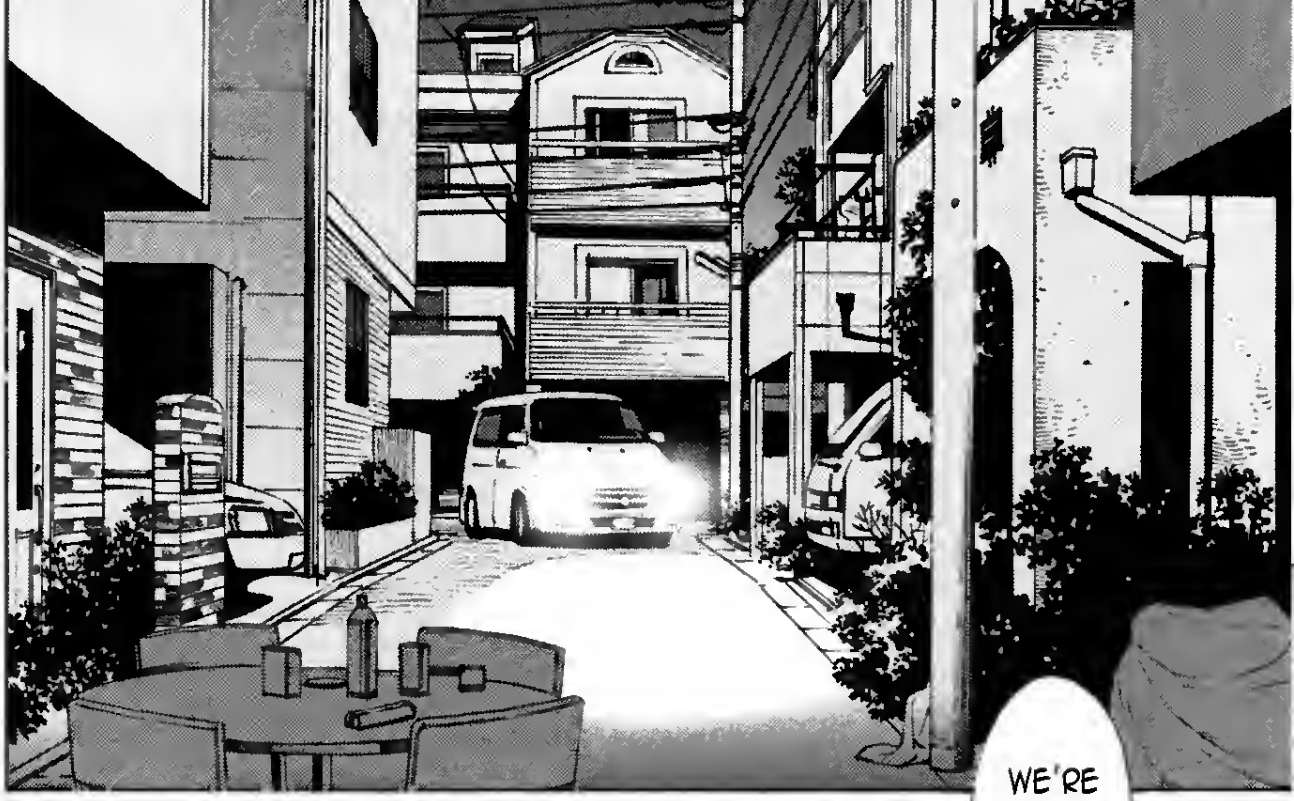
AFTER11 ／ Earth's Night Sky



TN: CUP RAMEN IS LIKE CUP NOODLES, BUT WITH A LARGER VARIETY OF POSSIBLE FLAVORS. KIDS LOVE IT FOR THIS REASON.

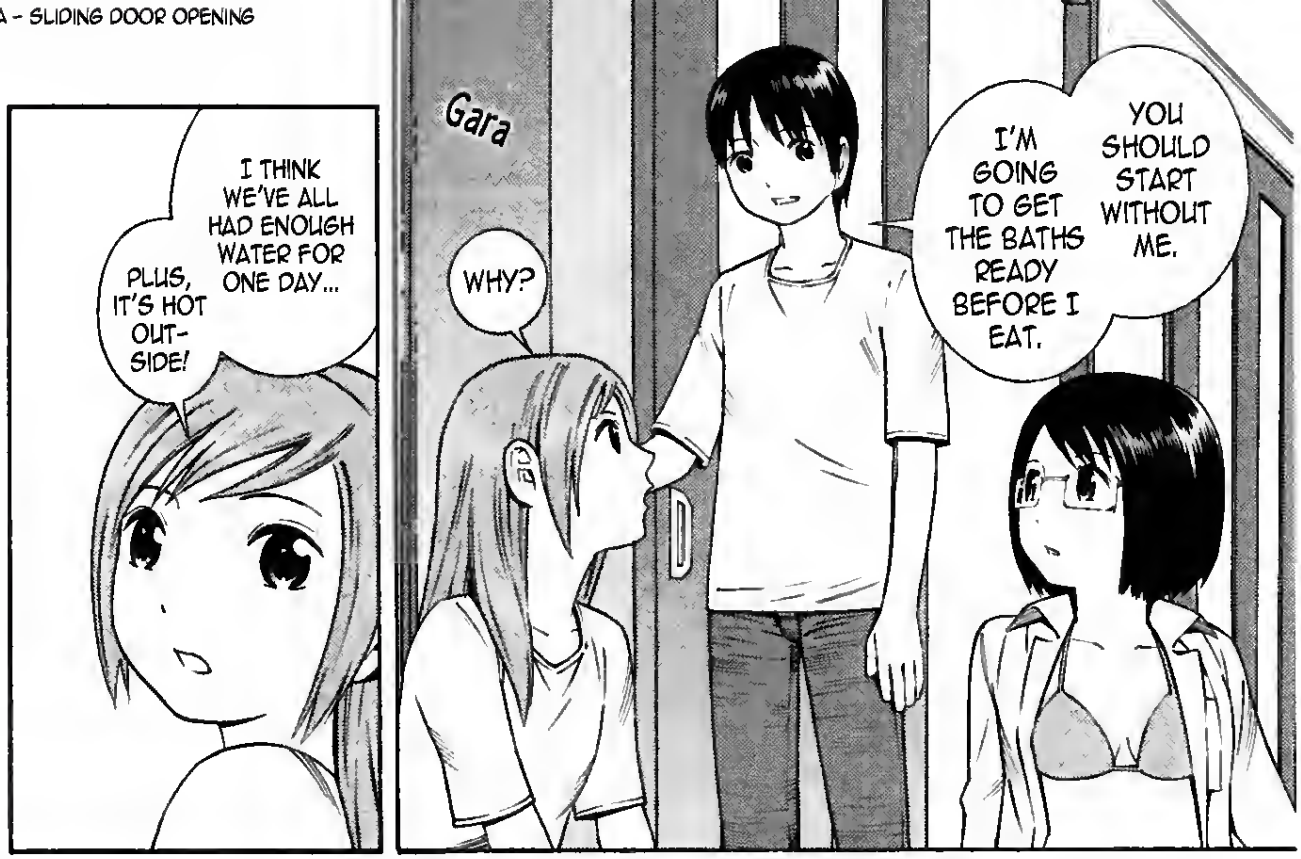
CUP RAMEN!
HOORAY!!
Fool

Brown Seaweed Ramen
Pork Omelet
Grilled Pork

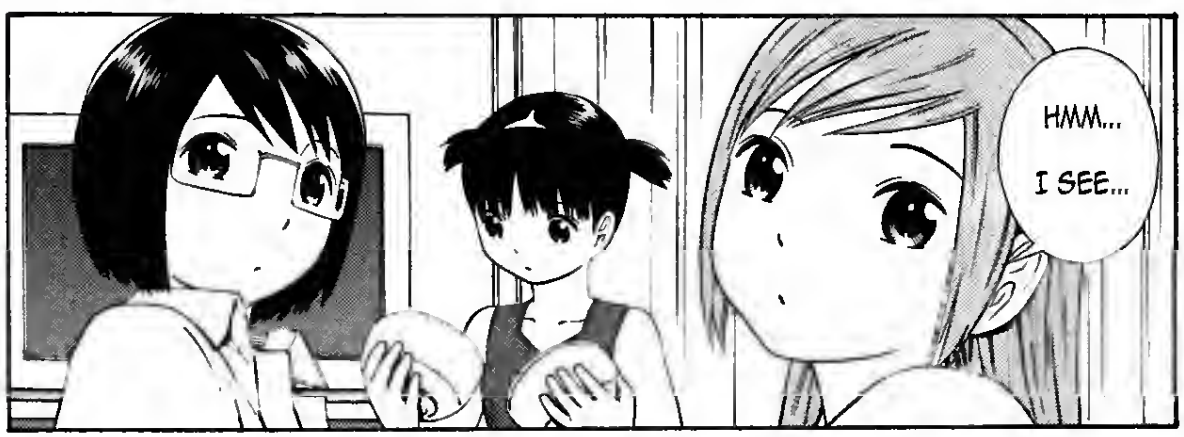
WHICH DO YOU PREFER, MASASHI-KUN?

YOU'RE GOING TO EAT ALL THREE OF THEM!?
ANNA WILL EAT THIS ONE AND THIS ONE AND THIS ONE

SFX: GARA - SLIDING DOOR OPENING

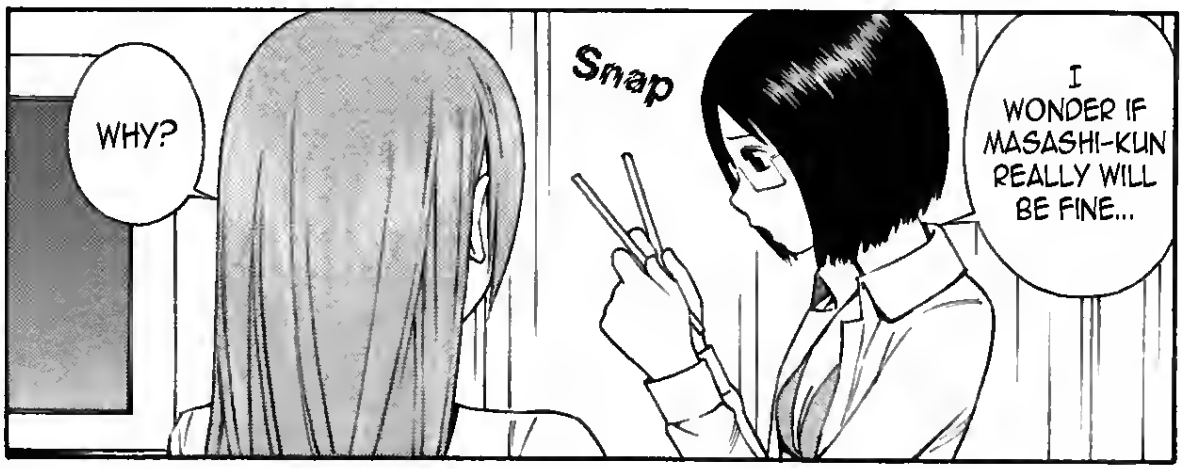

Gara
YOU SHOULD START WITHOUT ME.
I'M GOING TO GET THE BATHS READY BEFORE I EAT.
WHY?
I THINK WE'VE ALL HAD ENOUGH WATER FOR ONE DAY...
PLUS, IT'S HOT OUT-SIDE!

THAT'S NO GOOD.
BETWEEN SWIMMING ALL DAY AND BEING RAINED ON, YOUR BODY LOSES A LOT OF HEAT.
IF FOR NO OTHER REASON, YOU SHOULD BATHE TO WARM UP.

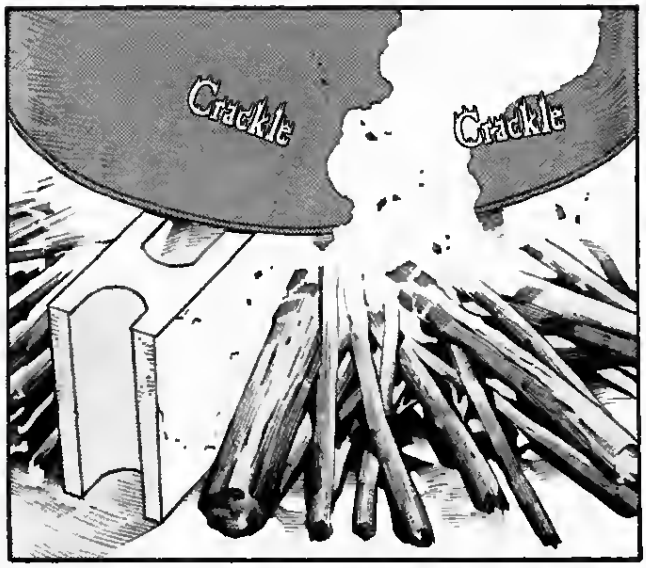


I'M GOING TO CHECK THE RICE FIELDS TOO, SO
I MIGHT BE COMING BACK A LITTLE LATE.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN MAYBE I COULD SPEED THINGS UP IF I HELP-ED.
SINCE IT'S ALREADY DARK AND ALL...
THANKS, BUT.. I SHOULD BE FINE.
Ga-cha
MASASHI-KUN!
HMM?

SFX: "GA-TAN" THE SOUND OF A CLOSING DOOR



TN: SEE BACK TNS.

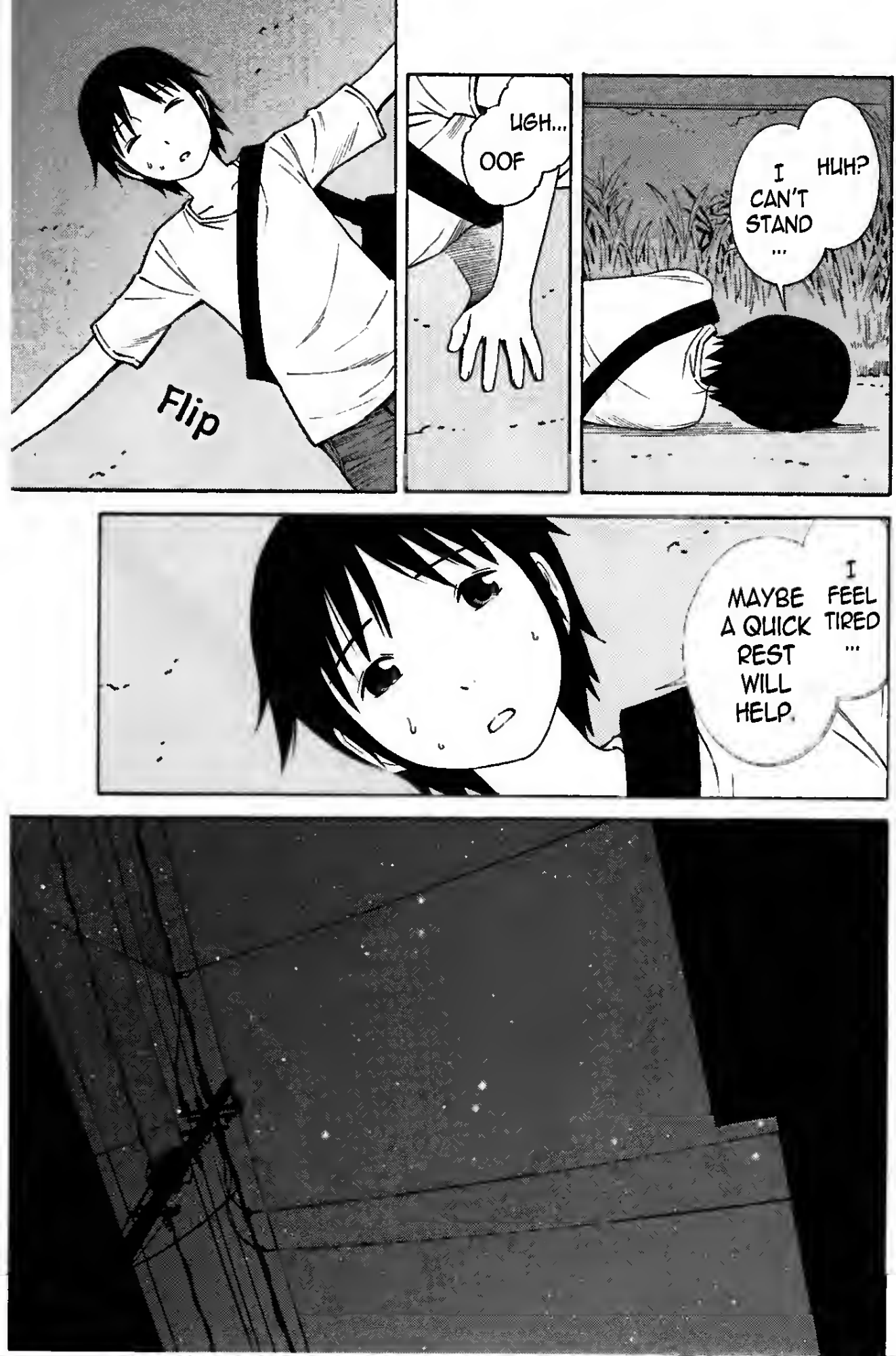

Crackle
Crackle

Fuuuu
Fuuuu

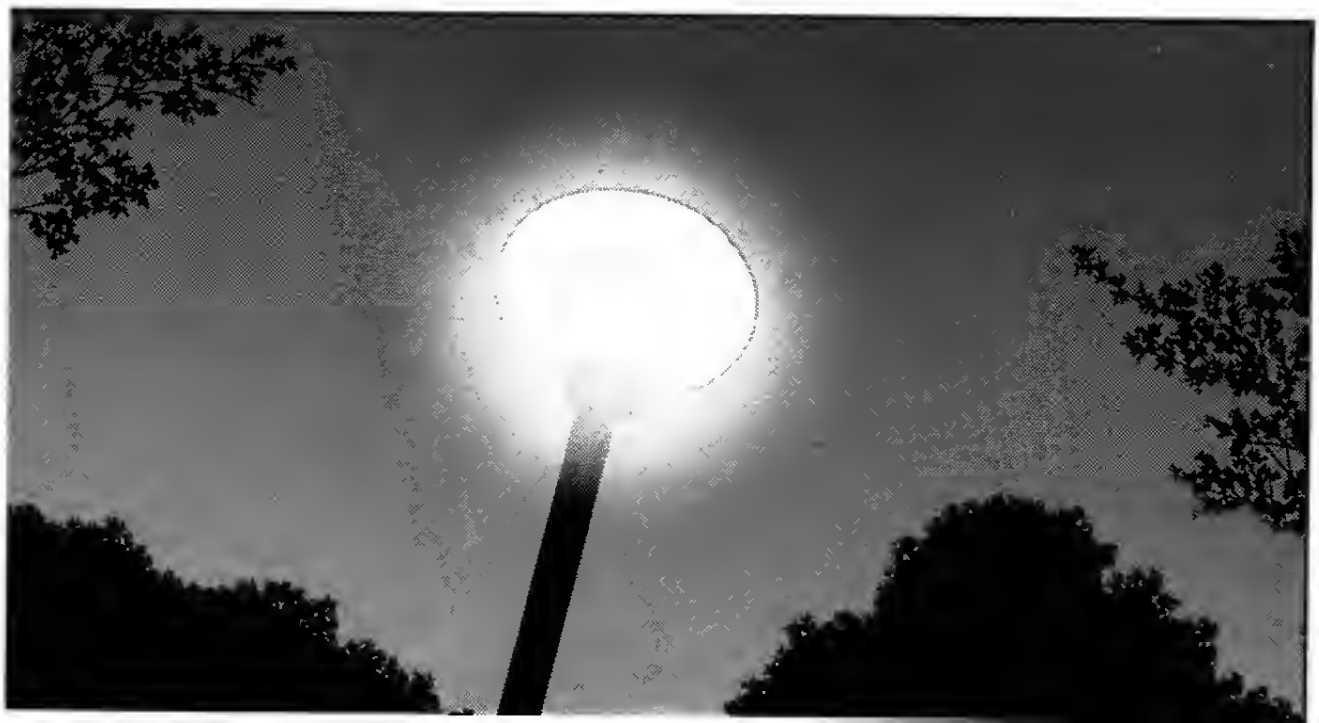
Beauty's Bath
ALL RIGHT! THAT SHOULD DO IT!

NOW ... LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THE RICE FIELD.

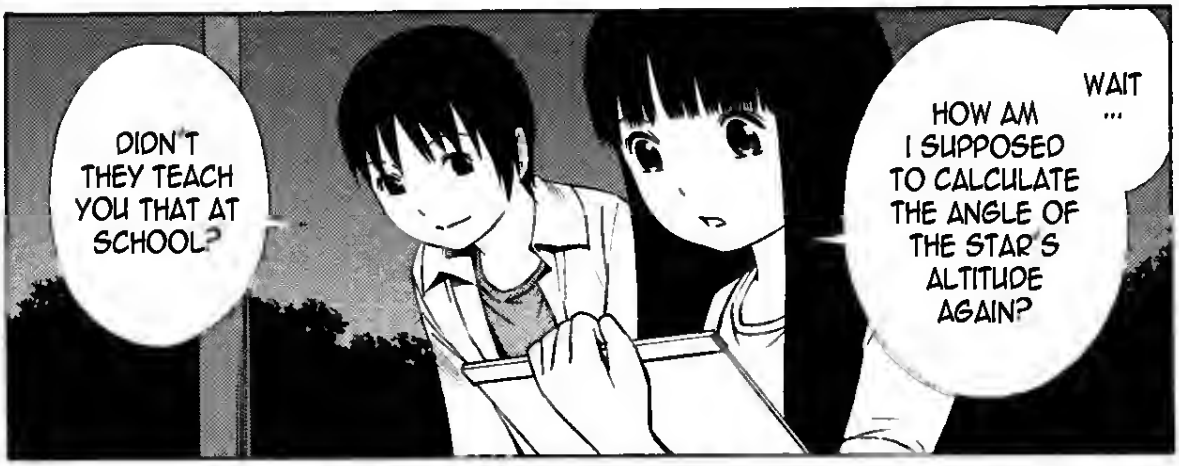
FOR SOME REASON MY LEGS FEEL REALLY HEAVY.
SHATTER

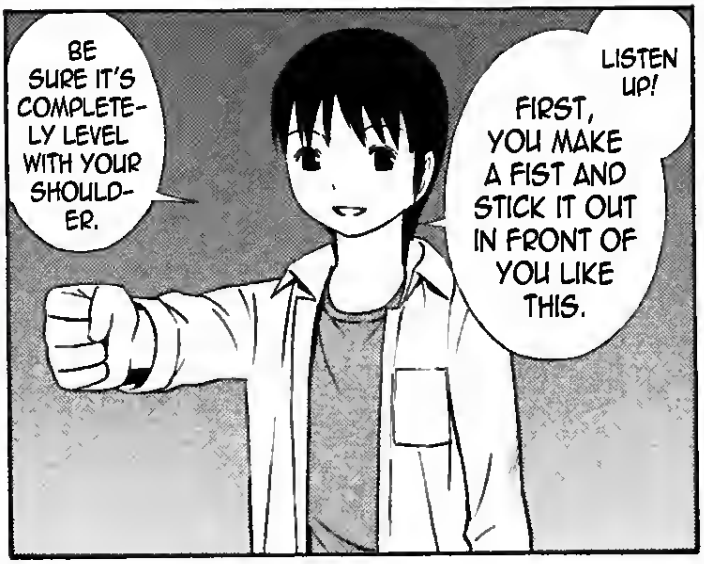

Flip
UGH...
OOF
HUH?
I CAN'T STAND ...
I FEEL TIRED ...
MAYBE A QUICK REST WILL HELP.

HEY ONII-CHAN...
HELP ME WITH MY SCHOOL'S STAR OBSERVATION PROJECT!
PLEASE!
THE STARS ... ARE SO BEAUTI-FUL...
I REALLY WANTED TO SHOW KIYOMI A NIGHT SKY
LIKE THIS...



THERE IT IS! THE SUMMER TRIANGLE!
THE TOWN LIGHTS ARE SO BRIGHT THAT I CAN BARELY SEE THE STARS.
THAT'S BECAUSE THE SKY NEAR SHINJUKU IS ESPECIALLY WELL-LIT.


WAIT ...
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CALCULATE THE ANGLE OF THE STAR'S ALTITUDE AGAIN?
DIDN'T THEY TEACH YOU THAT AT SCHOOL?


LISTEN UP!
FIRST, YOU MAKE A FIST AND STICK IT OUT IN FRONT OF YOU LIKE THIS.
BE SURE IT'S COMPLETELY LEVEL WITH YOUR SHOULDER.

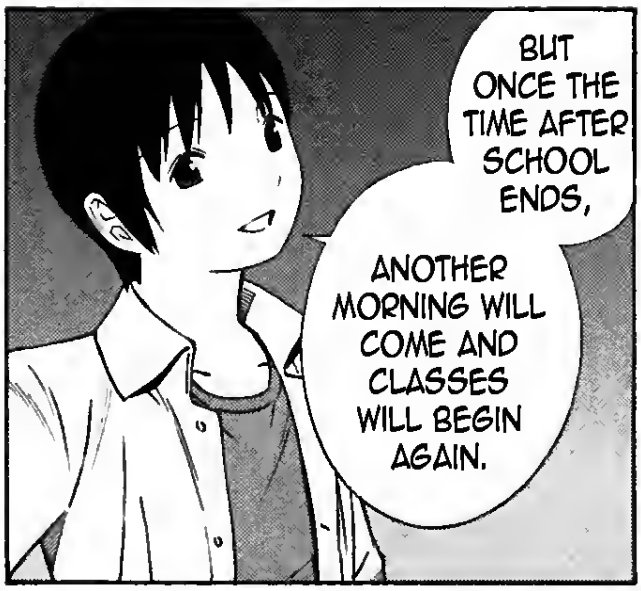
MAYBE... I DON'T KNOW ...
AFTER ALL, IT WAS ASSIGNED SO LONG AGO...

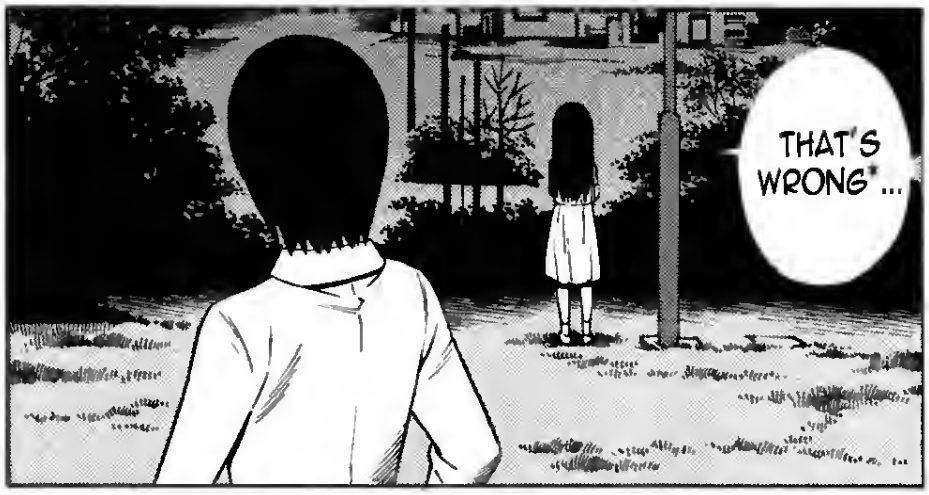
LIKE THIS?
EXACTLY! THEN, PUT YOUR OTHER HAND ON TOP LIKE THIS.
THE HEIGHT OF EACH FIST IS ABOUT 10 DEGREES.

OOOH...!
OOOOH!

IF YOU CONTINUE ALTERNAT-ING AS YOU COUNT,
YOU CAN GET A GENERAL IDEA OF THE ANGLE.

MY MY...
NOW I REMEMBER... WE DID LEARN THIS AT SCHOOL!





TN: KIYOMI COULD JUST AS EASILY BE SAYING "YOU'RE WRONG" SINCE THE JAPANESE HAS NO SUBJECT. IT'S HARD TO SAY. THE IMPLICATION IS THE SAME THOUGH. I OPTED FOR "THAT'S WRONG" SINCE KIYOMI HAS A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH HER BROTHER AND JAPANESE TEND TO BE MORE INDIRECT WHEN ADDRESSING PROBLEMS OR DISAGREEMENTS.

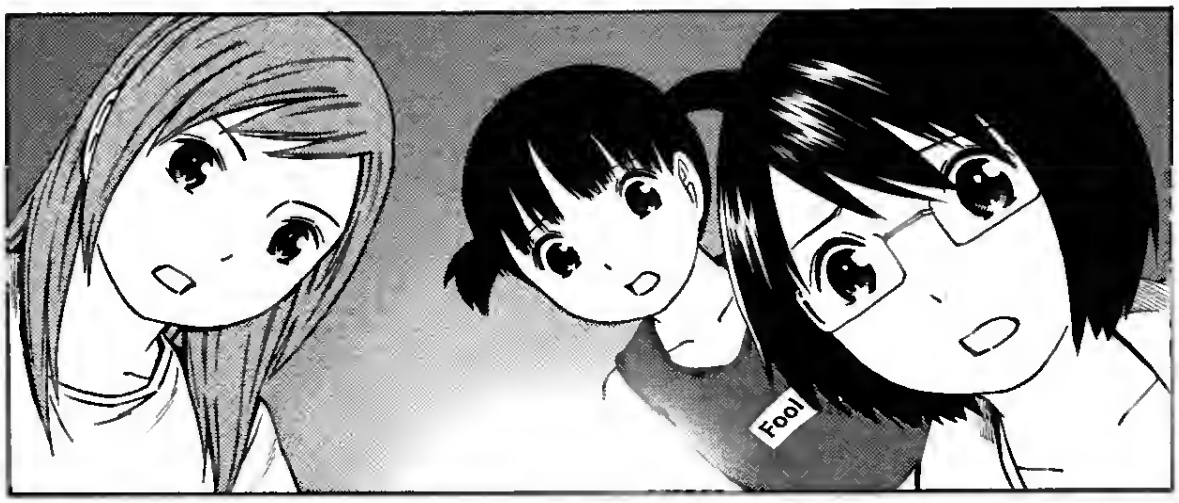
WHY'S THAT?
...!?
ONCE THE TIME AFTER SCHOOL ENDS...
WHAT FOLOWS NEXT IS NIGHT...
A NIGHT AS DARK AS PITCH...

KIYOMI!?
...!?
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD, ONII-CHAN

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT.
YOU HAVE TO PROTECT SANAE AND YAEKO AND ANNA...
H-HOW?
HOW DO YOU KNOW THEIR NAMES?
IT'S SO BEAUTI-FUL.
LOOK... LOOK UP AT THE SKY.

SOME-
THING'S
DIFFER-
ENT.
IT'S
NOT THE
USUAL
SKY.
THERE
ARE COUNT-
LESS MORE
STARS THAN
USUAL.
ONII-
CHAN,
YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO LOOK
AT THIS
NIGHT
SKY
ONCE
MORE...

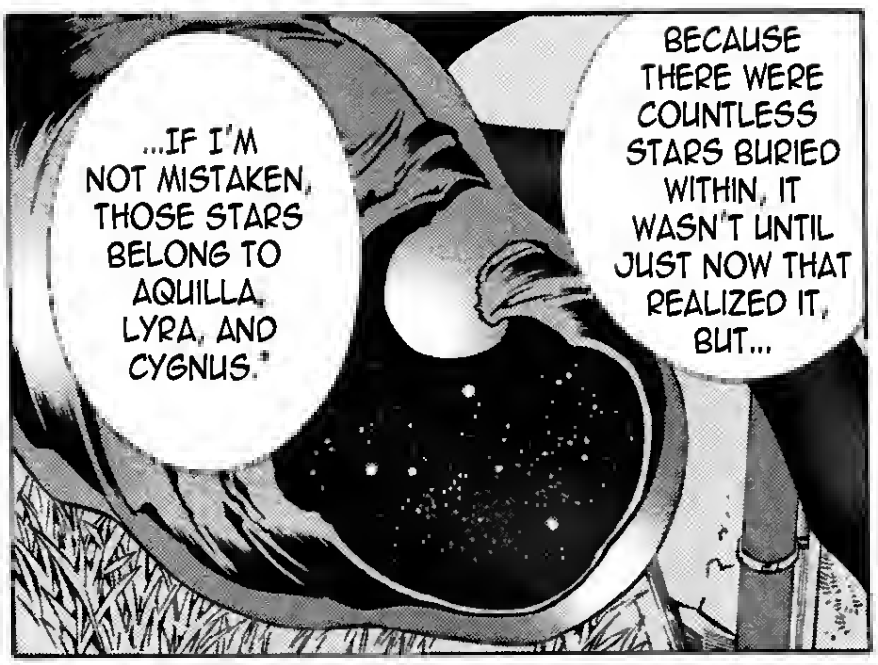
LOOK AT THIS NIGHT SKY
ONCE MORE AND TRY...
...TO REMEMBER.
WU WU WU...
BWUaaaaa
LOOK! HOW AMAZ-ING!
IT'S RAINING STARS!
...!!


Fool

UWA...
THANK GOODNESS... HE'S FINALLY COME AROUND.
MASASHI-KUN!!
W-WHAT HAPPEN-ED?
THE STARS... THEY'RE BACK IN THE SKY.
UGH... A DREAM ...
ARE YOU OKAY? DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD?
STARS ...?

MASASHI-KUN!
YOU'RE RUNNING A FEVER!
REALLY?
AND IT'S PRETTY BAD TOO!
IT'S TRUE!
...

I'M FINE!
I JUST BECAME A LITTLE DIZZY. THAT'S ALL.
CALM DOWN YOU IDIOT!
ANNA'S GOING TO CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE!
Fool
MORE IMPORT-ANTLY...
THERE'S SOMETHING I REALIZ-ED.
Fool


BECAUSE THERE WERE COUNTLESS STARS BURIED WITHIN, IT WASN'T UNTIL JUST NOW THAT REALIZED IT, BUT...
...IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THOSE STARS BELONG TO AQUILLA, LYRA, AND CYGNUS.*

TN: SEEBACK TNS FOR MORE INFO ON THE SUMER TRIANGLE.

TN: SEE BACK TNS FOR A COMPLETE EXPLANATION.

IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S THE NIGHT SKY...
WHAT I'M TRY-ING TO SAY IS...
THAT THAT SCENERY CAN ONLY BE SEEN FROM THE EARTH."
WHICH MEANS ...
WHAT EXACTLY?
NIGHT SKY...
I WONDER WHAT THAT MEANS...
BUT... IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE NUMBER OF STARS IS MUCH GREATER.

DON'T PUSH YOUSELF TOO HARD, ONII-CHAN.
...

WHO CARES RIGHT NOW? WHAT REALLY MATTERS IS THAT YOU REST.
SHE'S RIGHT! YOU'RE TAKING IT EASY TOMORROW!
WHAT?
BUT...

FINE... I'LL TAKE IT EASY.

TRANSLATION NOTES

"THANKS FOR THE FOOD" (P 126) - IN JAPANESE, THERE EXIST A GROUP OF SET PHRASES THAT ARE USED IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. IN VOLUME 1, CHAPTER 5, MASASHI AND SANAE USED SET PHRASES FOR ENTERING OLD HOME.

HERE SANAE IS BEING GENERALLY THANKFUL FOR HER FOOD AND IS NOT THANKING A SPECIFIC GOD OR PERSON, SO SHE USES THE SET PHRASE "ITADAKIMASU" (頂きます), WHICH ROUGHLY TRANSLATES TO "I HUMBLY RECEIVE [THE FOOD]". SINCE IT IS ALSO USED IN "KEIGO" (敬語 : JAPANESE HONORIFIC LANGUAGE), IT IS MORE OFTEN TRANSALTED AS "THANKS FOR THE FOOD" OR "LET'S EAT" AS I BELEIVE I TRANSLATED IT IN VOLUME 1, CHAPTER 1.

GRRRR (P 126) - ANNA IS DEPECITED AS GROWLING AT SANAE. HOWEVER, ANNA IS NOT REALLY GROWLING AT ALL. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE ODD SITUATIONS WHERE THE JAPANESE DESCRIBE THE FEELING OF BEING GROWLED AT BY USING AN ONOMATOPOEIATIC WORD. SANAE PERCEIVES ANNA'S ANIMAL LIKE BEHAVIOR AND FEELS LIKE ANNA HAS GROWLED AT HER. IT'S MEANT FOR COMEDIC EFFECT IN MOST CASES.

THE SUMMER TRINAGLE (P 133 AND 147) - THE SUMMER TRIANGLE (大三角) IS AN IMAGINARY TRIANGLE DRAWN IN THE NIGHT SKY WITH THE STARS ALTAIR, DENEB, AND VEGA SERVING AS THE VERTICES. ALTAIR, DENEB, AND VEGA ARE RESPECTIVELY THE BRIGHTEST STARS IN AQUILA, CYGNUS, AND LYRA CONSTELLATIONS. THE SUMMER TRIANGLE IS WELL-KNOWN IN JAPAN AND APPEARS IN A VARIETY OF MEDIA. FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS REFERENCED IN JAPANESE POP BAND SUPERCELL'S "YOUR UNKNOWN STORY" (君の知らない物語 : KIMI NO SHIRANAI MONOGATARI), WHICH ALSO SERVED AS THE FIRST OPENING FOR "BAKEMONOGATARI" (化物語).

PART OF THE REASON THE SUMMER TRIANGLE IS SO WELL-KNOWN IN JAPAN IS BECAUSE OF TANABATA. TANABATA (七夕), ALSO CALLED THE FESTIVAL OF STARS, ORIGINATED FROM THE CHINESE QIXI FESTIVAL. DURING TANABATA, THE LOVERS ORIHIME AND HIKOBOSHI (THE STARS VEGA AND ALTAIR) ARE ALLOWED TO REUNITE FOR ONE DAY. ACCORDING TO THE STORY, THE DAUGHTER OF THE SKY KING FELL IN LOVE WITH A HIKOBOSHI AFTER AN ARRANGED MEETING AND MARRIED. HOWEVER, HIKOBOSHI ALLOWED HIS CATTLE TO STRAY ALL OVER THE HEAVENS. THE SKY KING WAS ANGERED BY THIS AND SEPARATED THE TWO. ONLY ON THE 7TH DAY OF THE 7TH MONTH ARE THEY ALLOWED TO MEET AGAIN. TANABATA IS CELEBRATED IN MANY JAPANESE SCHOOLS AND SO MOST STUDENTS ARE AWARE OF THE SUMMER TRIANGLE AS A RESULT.

MASASHI'S UNCLARIFIED CLARIFYING STATEMENT (P148) - MASASHI MAKES THINGS CONFUSING. BASICALLY HE REALIZES THAT YOU CAN ONLY SEE THE SUMMER TRIANGLE WITH THOSE PARTICULAR ANGLES FROM EARTH. ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE GALAXY AND YOU WOULD NOT NECESSARILY SEE A TRIANGLE. HIS EPIPHANY IS DUE TO KIYOMI TRYING TO DETERMINE THE ANGLES OF THE STARS IN HIS FLAHSBACK.

So I've been in New York City this past week for business. I also have a couple of good friends in NYC, so unfortunately translation took a backseat to vsiting with these friends and conducting business. I really like this chapter. Its subtle with the plot progression, but some of the artwork is spectacular. I hope you appreciate the redraw of the wide fold page. It was originally separated into two pages with different color profiles, so I had to correct for that and then stitch the two together. It was quite the challenge, but I think the end result is worthwhile. The page itself deserved it. I hope you enjoy the chapter.

Champion
RED Comics
RED

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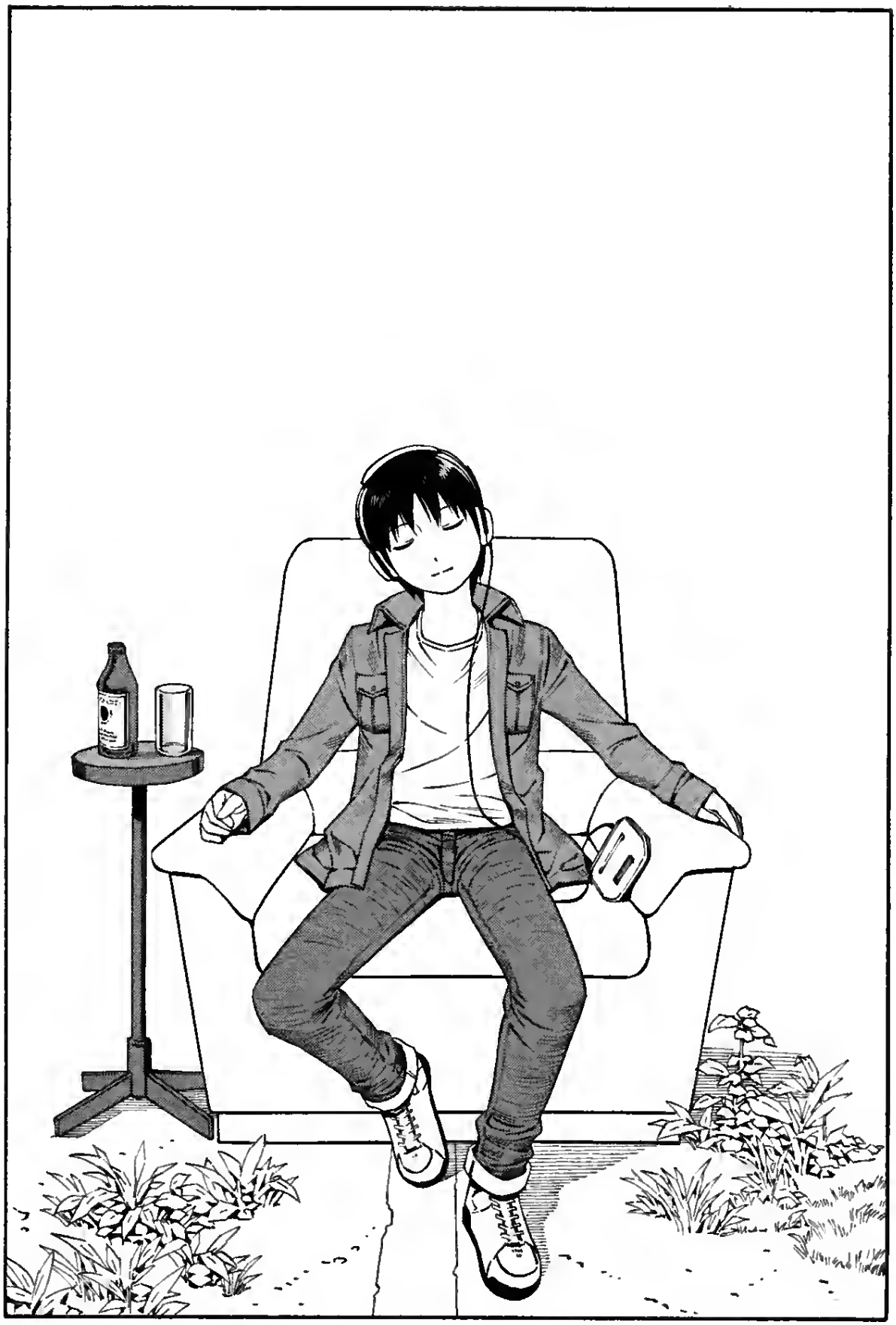
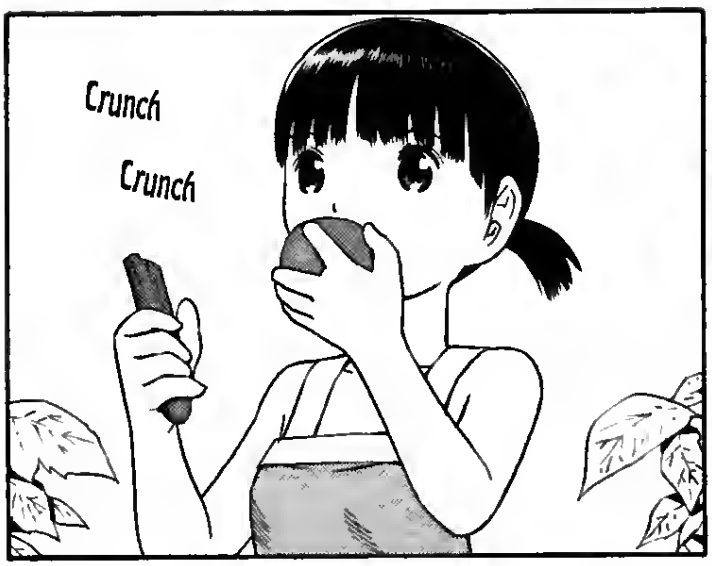


AFTER12／Masashi's Day Off

TN: SEE BACK TNS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

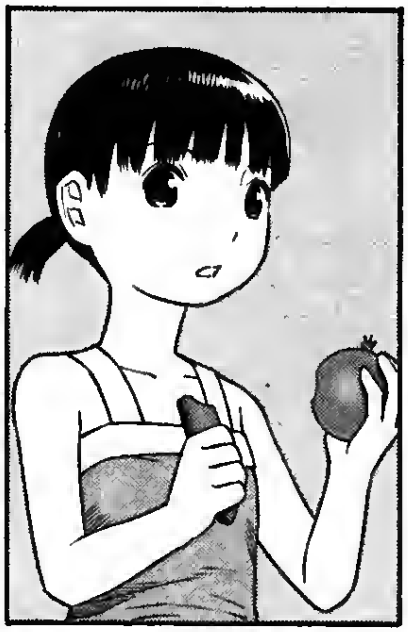
LET'S DO OUR BEST!
YEAH!!
ALL RIGHT! LET'S DIVIDE AND CONQUER!
I'LL TAKE THE BATHS, SANAE WILL TAKE HANDLE THE RICE FIELD, AND ANNA'S IN CHARGE OF THE GARDEN!
Bathcare Instructions
Rice Field Instructions
1. Remove the weeds from the field
2 Attach the hose to the spigot
3 Allow the field to
4

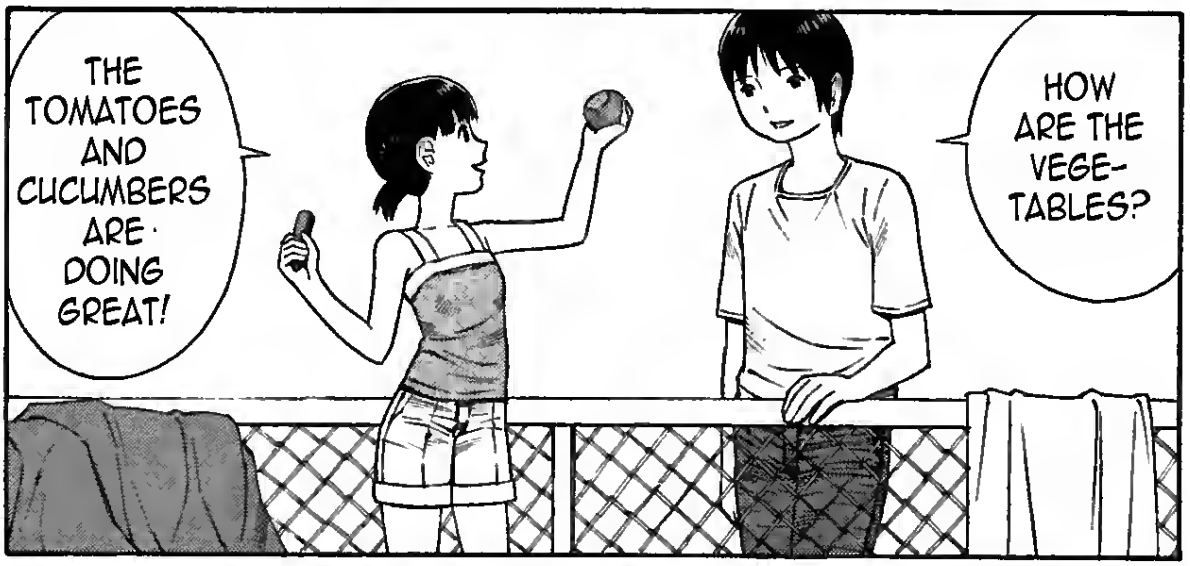
Masashi's Garden


Crunch
Crunch

TOMATOES AND CUCUMBERS ARE THE BEST!!
SOOOO GOOOOOD!!

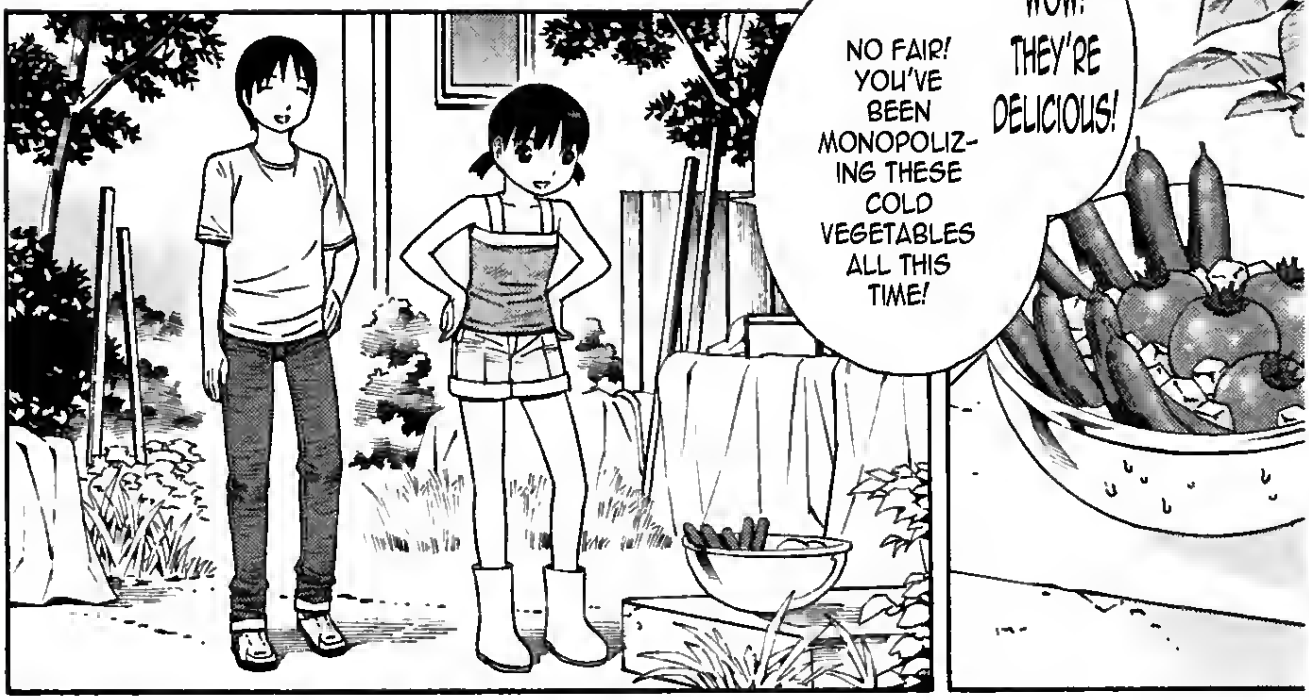
WHAT?
THAT'S NO GOOD MASASHI.
YOU HAVE TO REST!

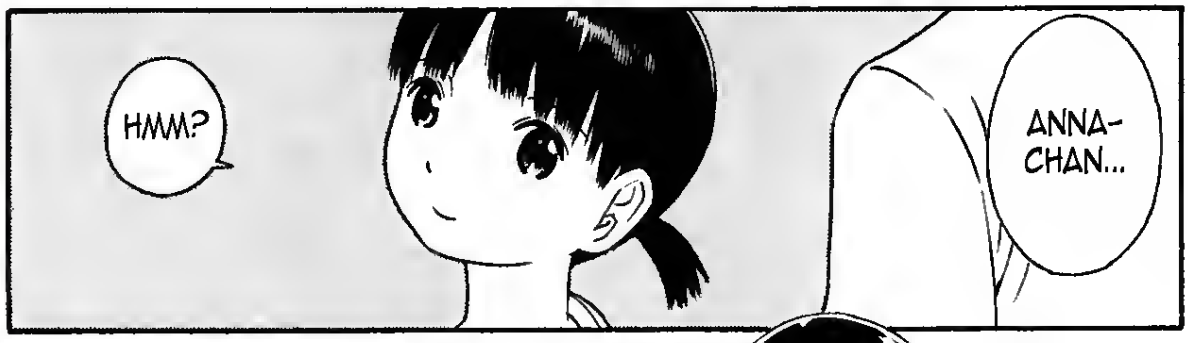



THE TOMATOES AND CUCUMBERS ARE DOING GREAT!
HOW ARE THE VEGE-TABLES?

REALLY!?
WHEN YOU CHILL THEM, THEY TASTE EVEN BETTER.
YOU SHOULD USE THE ICE-MAKER OVER THERE.

IS THAT SO?

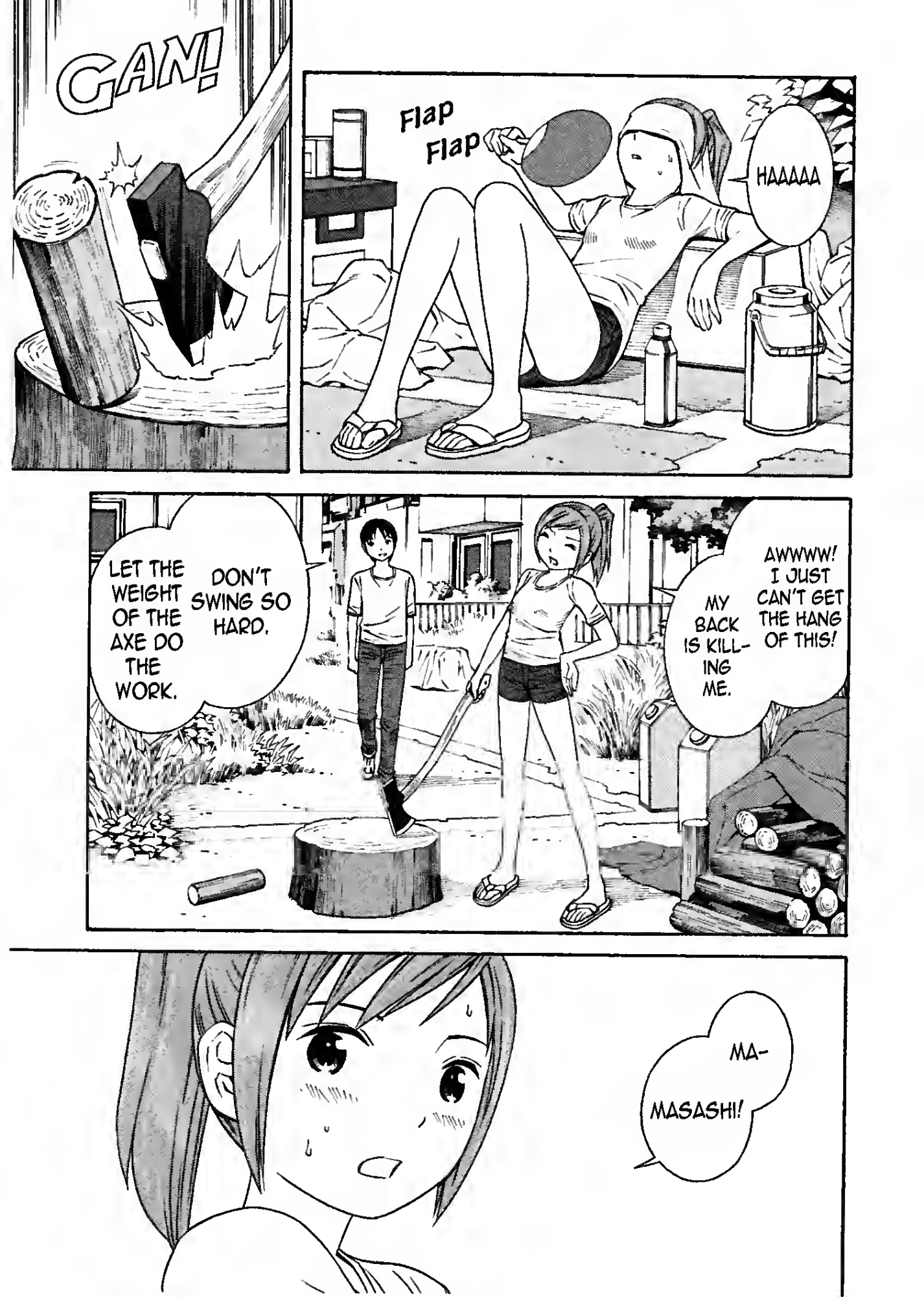

WOW! THEY'RE DELICIOUS!
NO FAIR! YOU'VE BEEN MONOPOLIZ-ING THESE COLD VEGETABLES ALL THIS TIME!


HMM?
ANNA-CHAN...

...?

WHAT'S WRONG MASASHI?
YOU'RE ACTING KIND OF GROSS.
Pat
Pat
THANK YOU
ANNA-CHAN...
...?
WELL THEN, IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME TO GO, OKAY?
YOU'RE WELCOME.

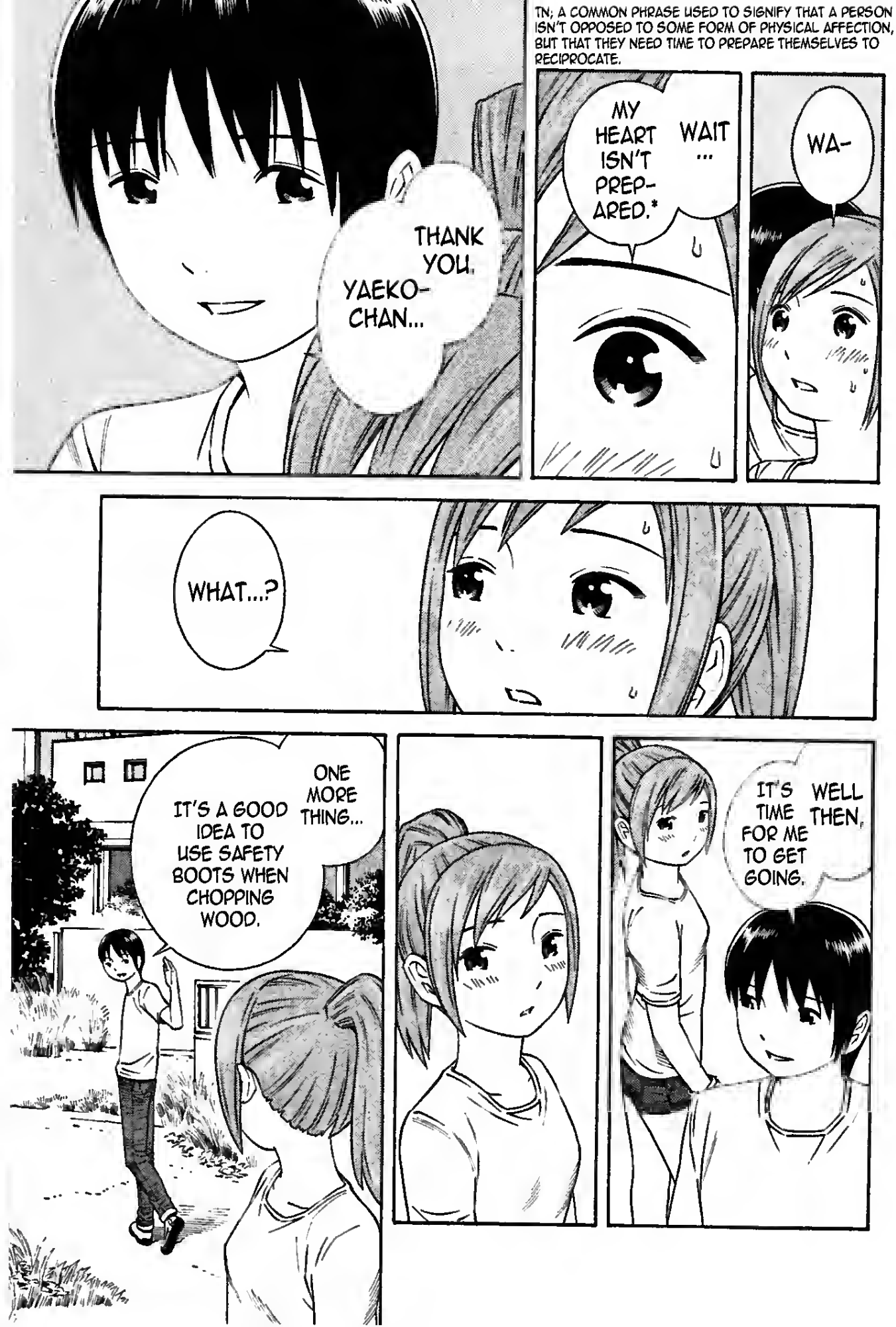
Gan!
Za-ba
Scrub
Scrub
GLUG GLUG GLUG
HU
HYUP!
Ga-ta
Ga-ta


CAN!
Flap
Flap
HAAAAA
AWWWW! I JUST CAN'T GET THE HANG OF THIS!
MY BACK IS KILL-ING ME.
DON'T SWING SO HARD.
LET THE WEIGHT OF THE AXE DO THE WORK.
MA-
MASASHI!

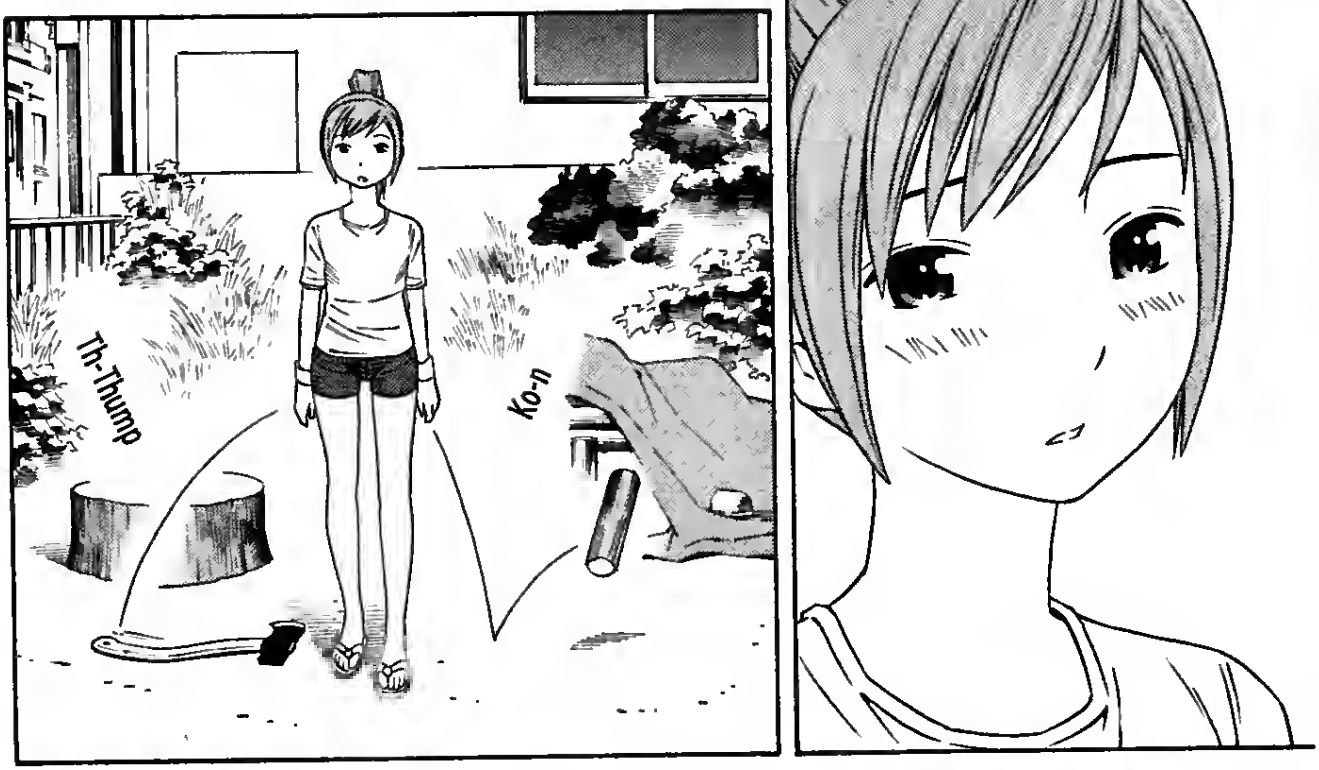
TO BEGIN, IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO WEAR GLOVES TO PREVENT THE AXE FROM RUBBING AGAINST YOUR SKIN.
THEN, PLACE THE FIREWOOD SO THAT ITS BASE IS FACING UP.
THIS MAKES IT EASIER TO SPLIT.
FURTHERMORE, IF YOU LET THE WEIGHT OF THE AXE DO THE WORK
YOU HARDLY HAVE TO USE ANY STRENGTH.
I SEE.
WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY?
SURE.
Pa-Kon

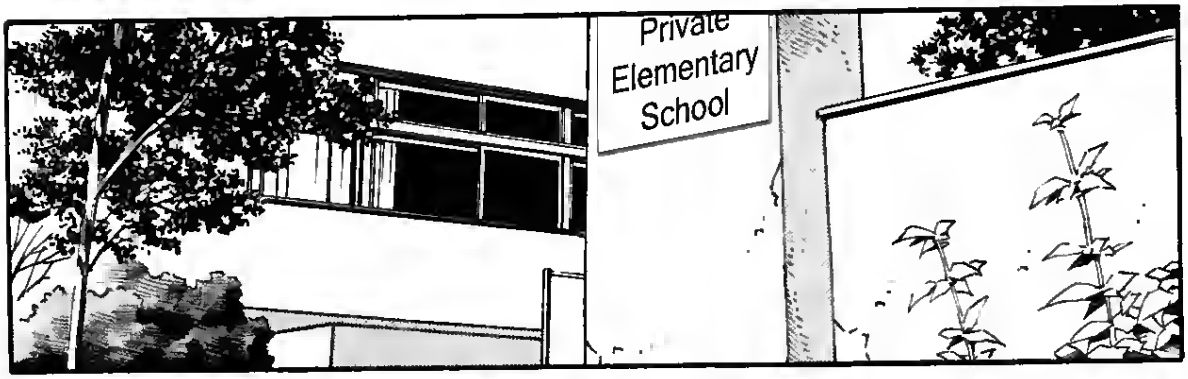
I DID IT!
AND IT WAS SO EASY!
Pa-Kun
Pa-Kun
WHEN YOU CAN DO IT,
IT'S KIND OF FUN.
YAEKO-CHAN...
YEAH?

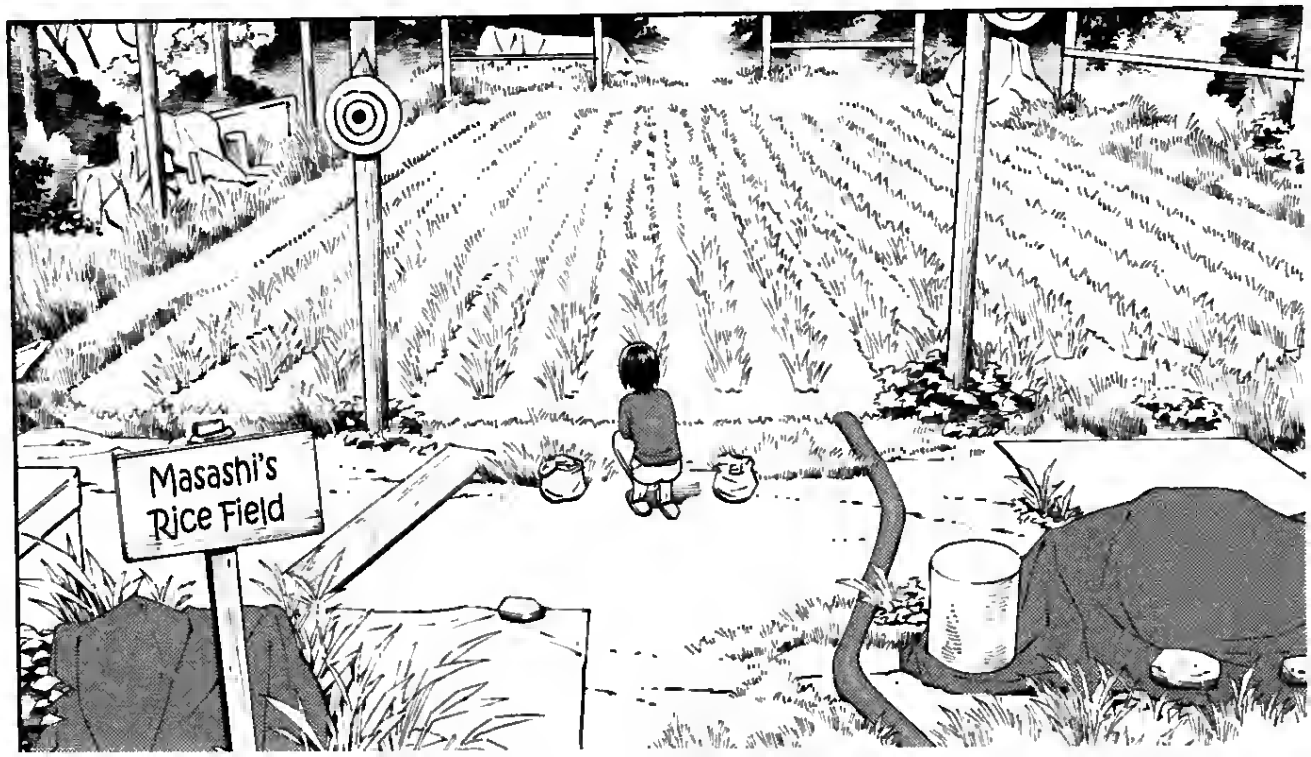
HUH?



TN; A COMMON PHRASE USED TO SIGNIFY THAT A PERSON ISN'T OPPOSED TO SOME FORM OF PHYSICAL AFFECTION, BUT THAT THEY NEED TIME TO PREPARE THEMSELVES TO RECIPROCATE.


Th-Thump
Ko-n


Private
Elementary
School


Masashi's
Rice Field

AWW!
MY BACK'S SO SORE!
Pluck
Pluck
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE THAT MASASHI-KUN...
DOING SUCH DIFFICULT THINGS LIKE THIS EVERYDAY BY HIMSELF...
squeak
squeak
I WONDER IF THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH.
OKAY!
Glug Glug Glug

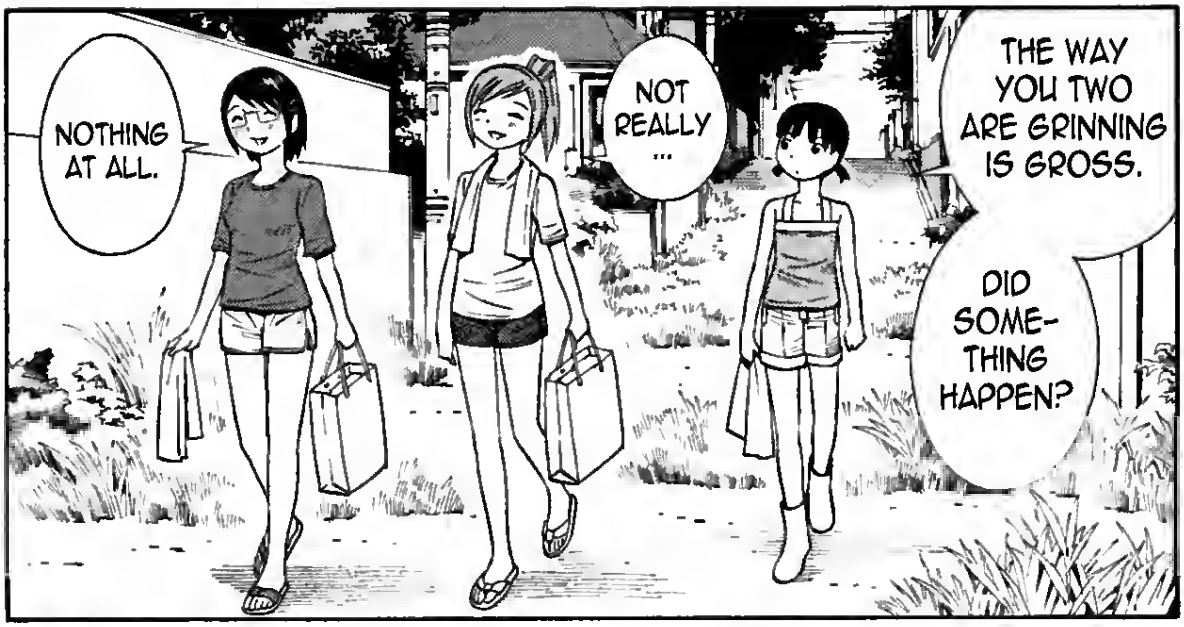
IT'S OKAY TO LEAVE THE WATER RUNNING A BIT LONGER.
UWAA!
WHEN THERE IS AMPLE WATER, IT MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR WEEDS TO GROW
SINCE IT DEPRIVES THEIR OXY-GEN CAUSING THEM TO SUFFOCATE.
MASASHI-KUN...!
YOU SCARED ME!
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE RESTING?
shi's Field

IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO ALWAYS DO SUCH HARD WORK ALL BY YOURSELF.
FROM NOW ON, WE'RE GOING TO HELP YOU TOO!
WHAT?
YOU KNOW MASASHI-KUN...
...
REALLY IT SHOULD BE US THANKING YOU...
THANKS.
...HMM?
YOU KNOW SANAE-CHAN...

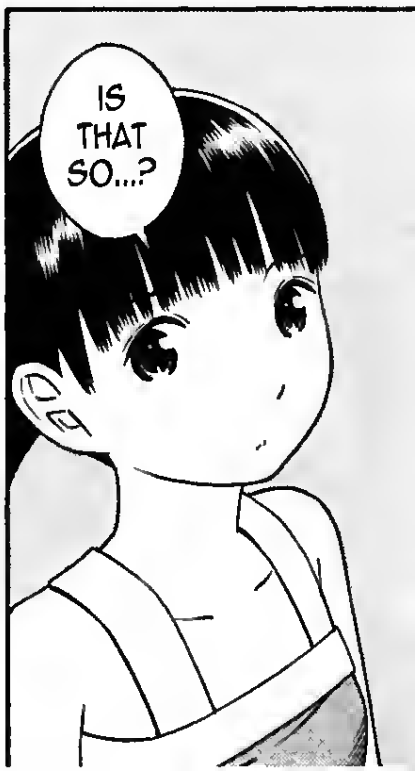
TN: THERE IS NO VERB IN THIS SENTENCE, SO IT IS HARD TO TELL WHETHER MASASHI MEANS THAT THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER OR FROM NOW ON THEY WILL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER. MASASHI IS ALSO REFERING TO ALL THREE GIRLS WHEN HE SAYS 'WE', BUT TO SANAE IT CONTEXTUALLY SOUNDS LIKE HE IS TALKING ABOUT ONLY HER SINCE THE OTHER GIRLS AREN'T PRESENT.

TN: JAPANESE NOUNS ARE BOTH SINGULAR AND PLURAL AT THE SAME TIME AND CONTEXT IS USUALLY REQUIRED TO FIGURE OUT WHICH IT IS. HERE, CONTEXT SUGGESTS THAT MASASHI WAS GLAD TO MEET ALL THREE GIRLS, BUT SANAE MISTAKENLY (OR PURPOSELY) INTERRUPTS THIS AS MEANING HE WAS GLAD TO MEET HER. SEE BACK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON JAPANESE NOUNS AND THEIR PLURALITY.

WELL THEN...
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO...
asashi's
ce Field

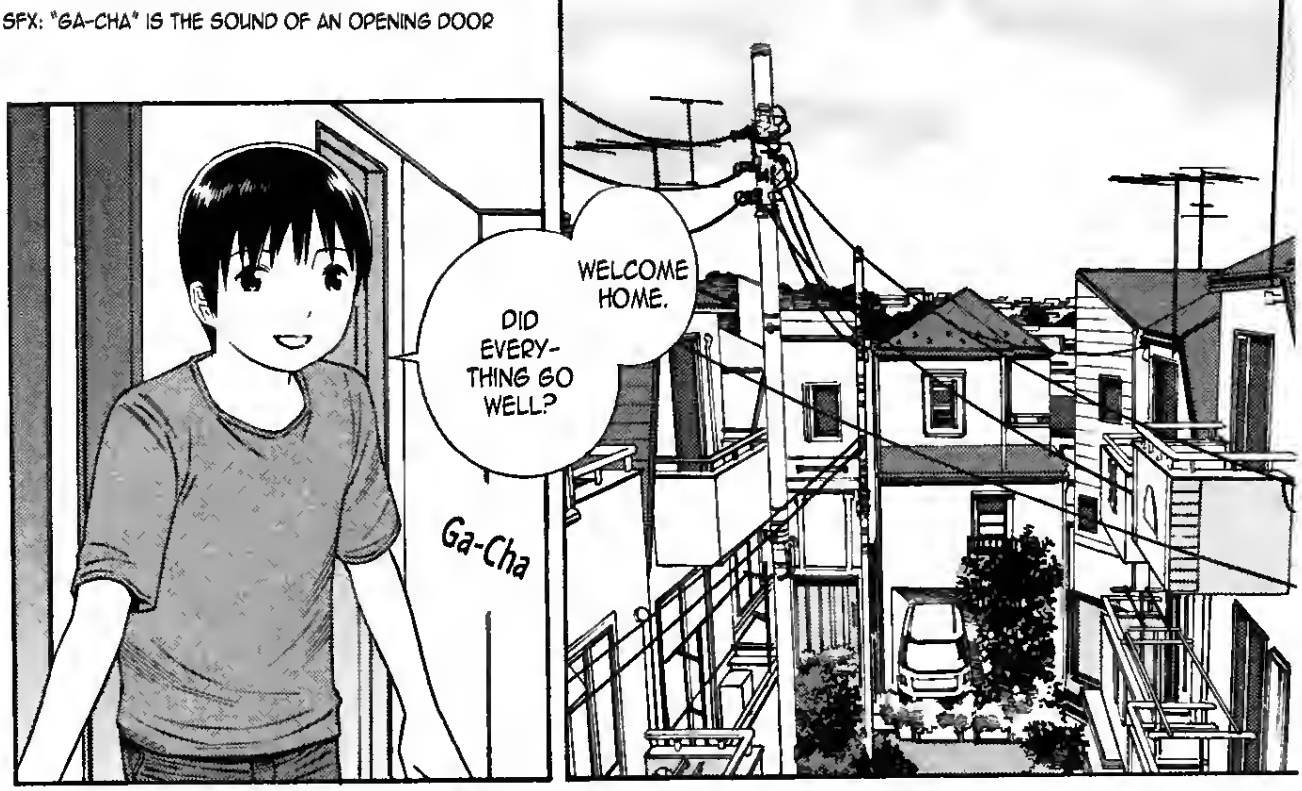

NOTHING AT ALL.
NOT REALLY ...
THE WAY YOU TWO ARE GRINNING IS GROSS.
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?

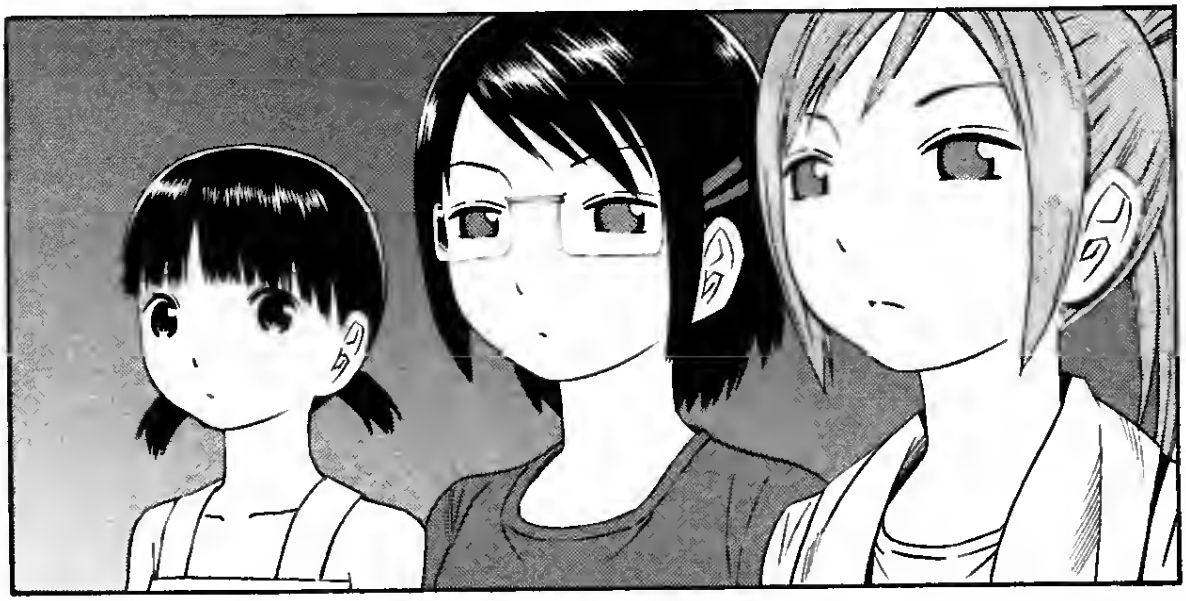
WHAT!?
WELL... MASASHI CAME TO VISIT ME.


IS THAT SO...?

W-WHATEVER...
IT'S NOT LIKE THERE WAS ANY MEANING BEHIND-
TCH-
MASASHI-KUN WENT TO SEE YAEKO TOO,
HUH?
WHAT THE HECK...
SO IT WASN'T JUST ME HE CAME TO SEE...
WHA-WHAT THE HELL?
I WONDER IF MASASHI LIKES ANNA OR SOMETHING.
HE GAVE ME A REALLY BIG HUG.
AND THEN GUESS WHAT?

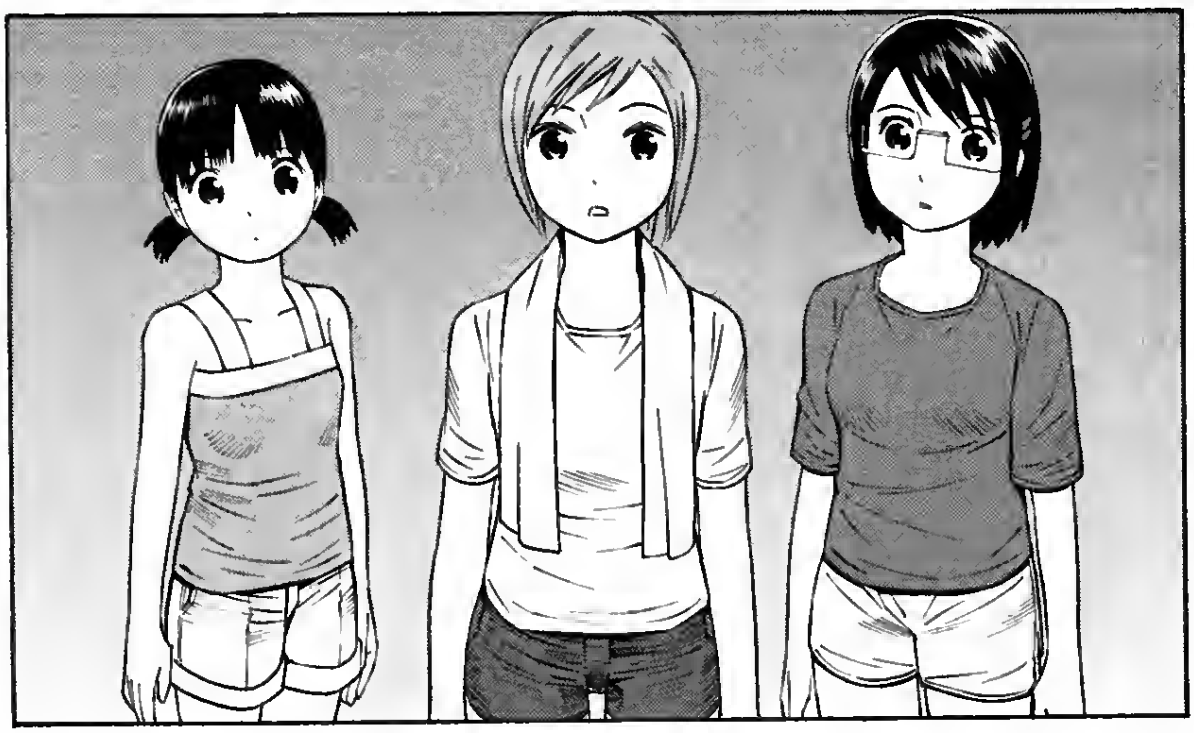
SFX: "GA-CHA" IS THE SOUND OF AN OPENING DOOR

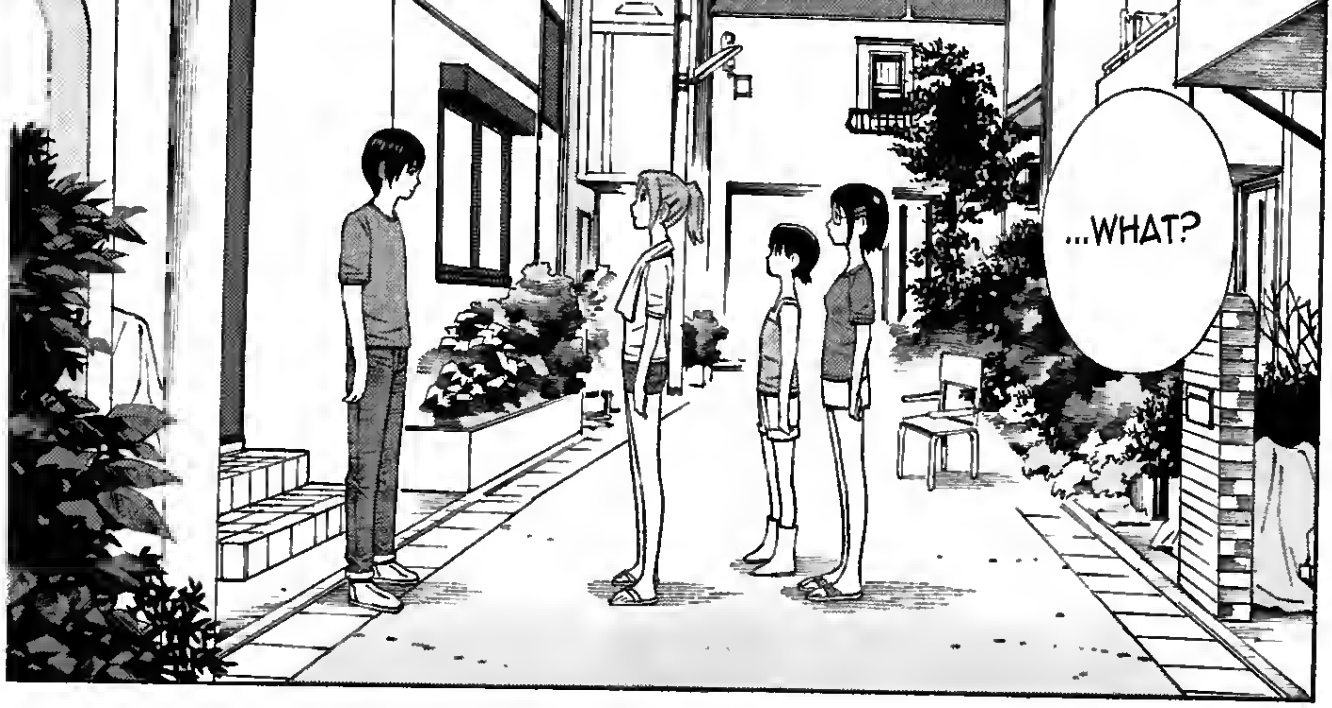




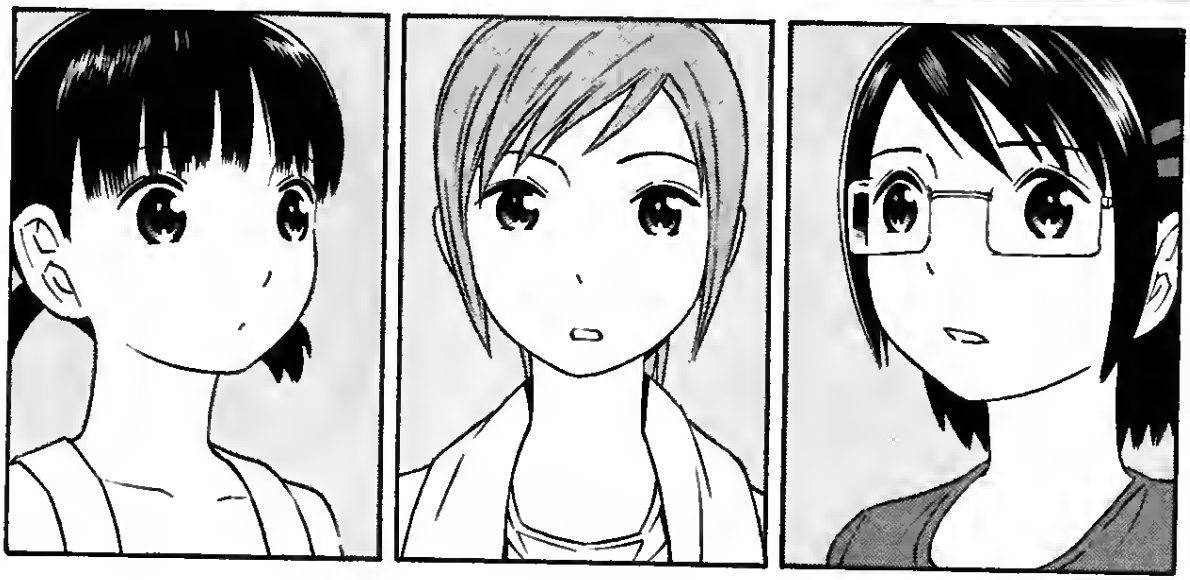
TN: YAEKO IS REFERRING TO BEING HUGGED WITH THE WORD 'IT' BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SAY IT ALOUD. AS A RESULT, MASASHI REALLY HAS NO IDEA OF WHAT HE'S BEING ACCUSED.

I...
HAVEN'T EVEN SET ONE FOOT OUTSIDE TODAY...




...WHAT?

I HAVEN'T BEEN OUTSIDE AT ALL.
I SPENT THE WHOLE DAY DOING THINGS LIKE RESEARCHING FANTOMS IN OLD NEWSPAPERS AND PONDERING THEIR EXISTENCE.



IF YOU LIKE ANNA, JUST HURRY UP AND SAY IT!!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO LIE, AT LEAST PUT SOME EFFORT INTO IT!!
WHAT? NO... I MEAN
UHM...
SO YOU WERE JUST MESSSING WITH ANNA'S HEART!?
YOU'RE AWFUL!
YOU PLAYBOY!
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE THE LAST BOY ON EARTH, DON'T GET ANY FUNNY IDEAS!
WAIT A MOMENT!!
WAIT...

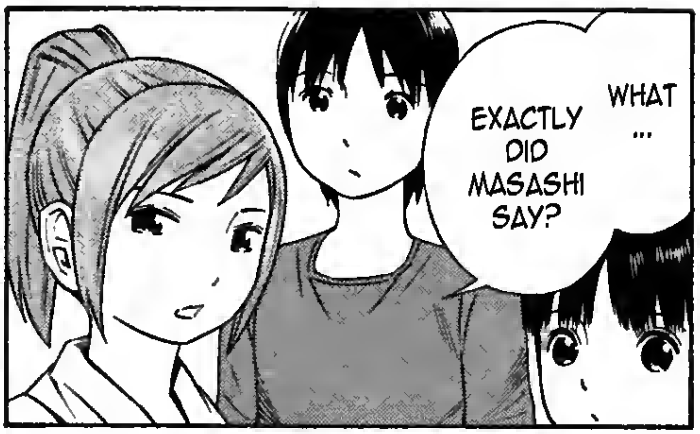
FOR INSTANCE, IT FEELS LIKE *THAT* MASASHI WAS TALLER.

NOW THAT I THIN ABOUT IT...
MASASHI'S EARLIER APPEARANCE REALLY WAS DIFFERENT.

HM...
REALLY?

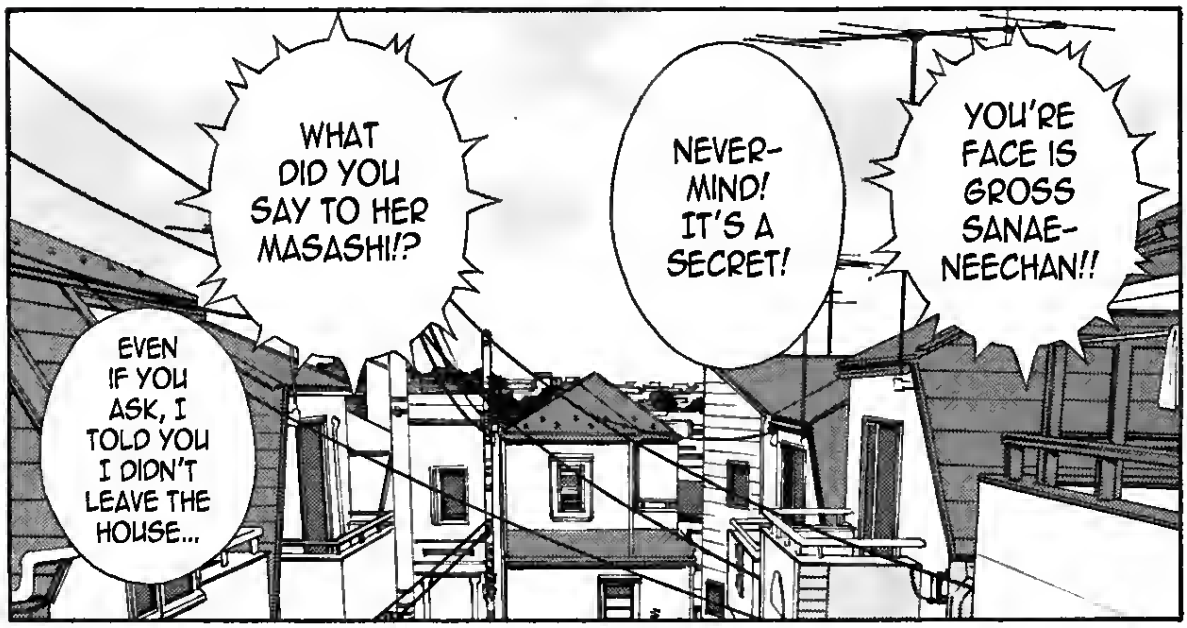
COULD *THAT* MASASHI HAVE POSSIBLY BEEN...?
WHAT MASASHI SAID SEEMED KIND OF STRANGE TOO.
FURTHER-MORE,

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY ...


WHAT ...
EXACTLY DID MASASHI SAY?

GRIN

I'M GLAD THAT I MET YOU.
AFTER ALL WE'LL ALWAYS BE TO-GETHER*...
NO MATTER WHAT, HAPPENS WE'LL BE FINE...

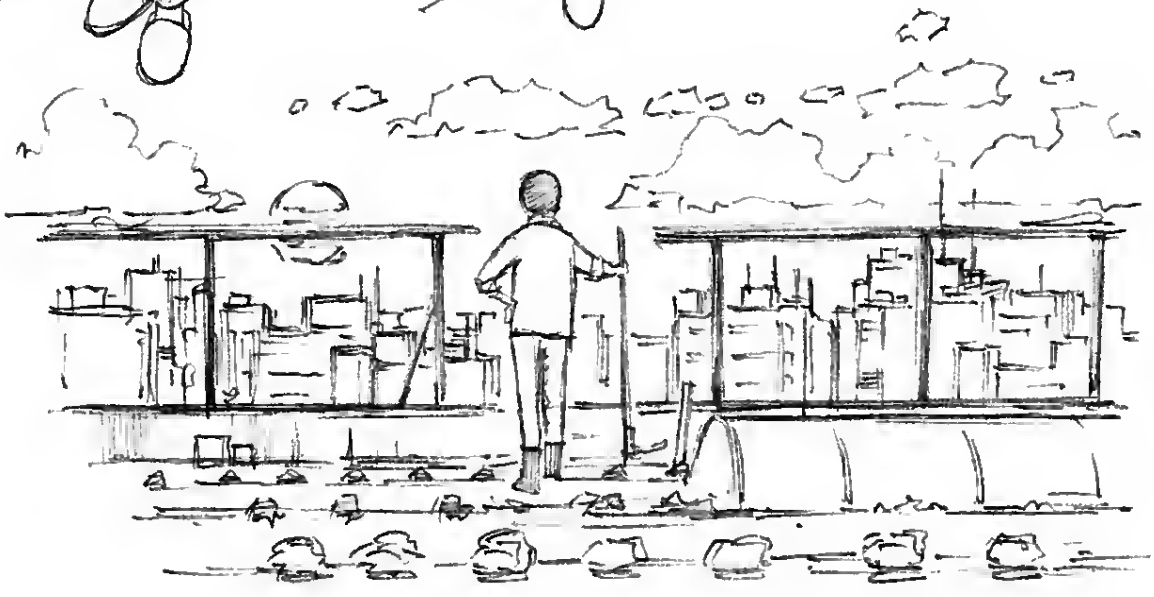

WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HER MASASHI!?
NEVER-MIND! IT'S A SECRET!
YOU'RE FACE IS GROSS SANAE-NEECHAN!!
EVEN IF YOU ASK, I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T LEAVE THE HOUSE...

TN: BUILDING SAYS "ELECTRIC POWER FACILITY" AND OTHER SIGN SAYS "EARTH'S AFTER SCHOOL REST".

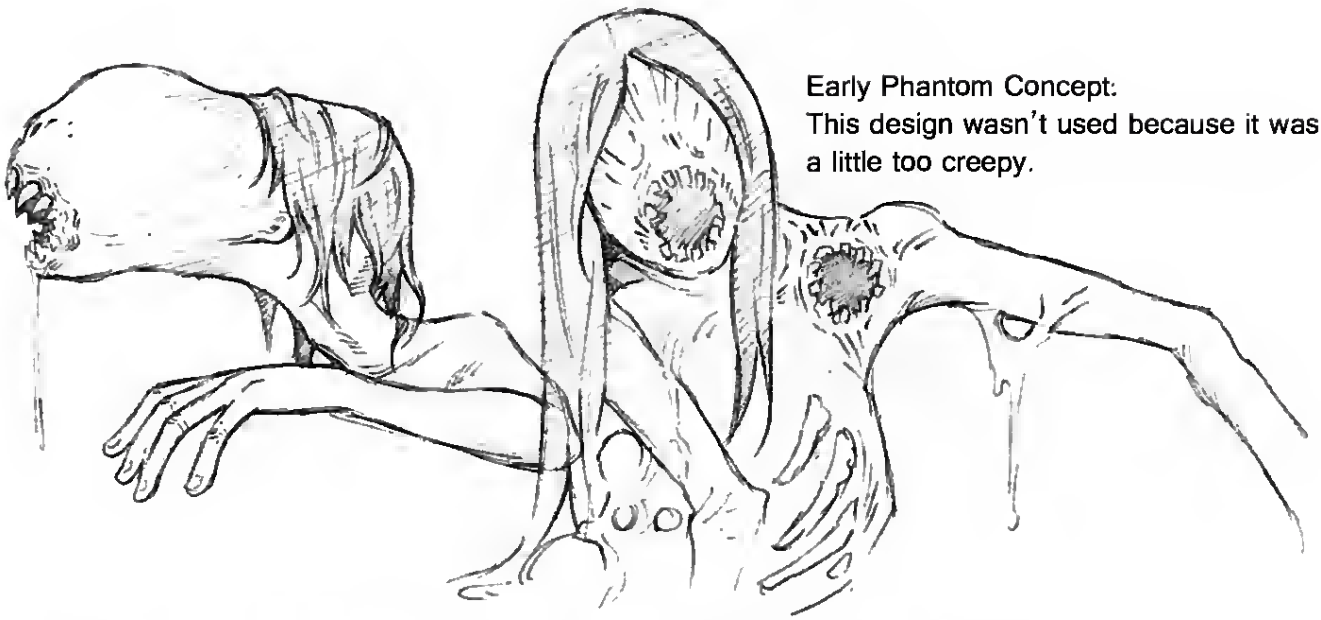
Earth's After School Rest Early Sketches

This is a sketch I drew before this manga's a serialization. At his time, I hand't yet determined the character's names or the setting of the story, but I don't think the protagonists' images changed that much from this time.

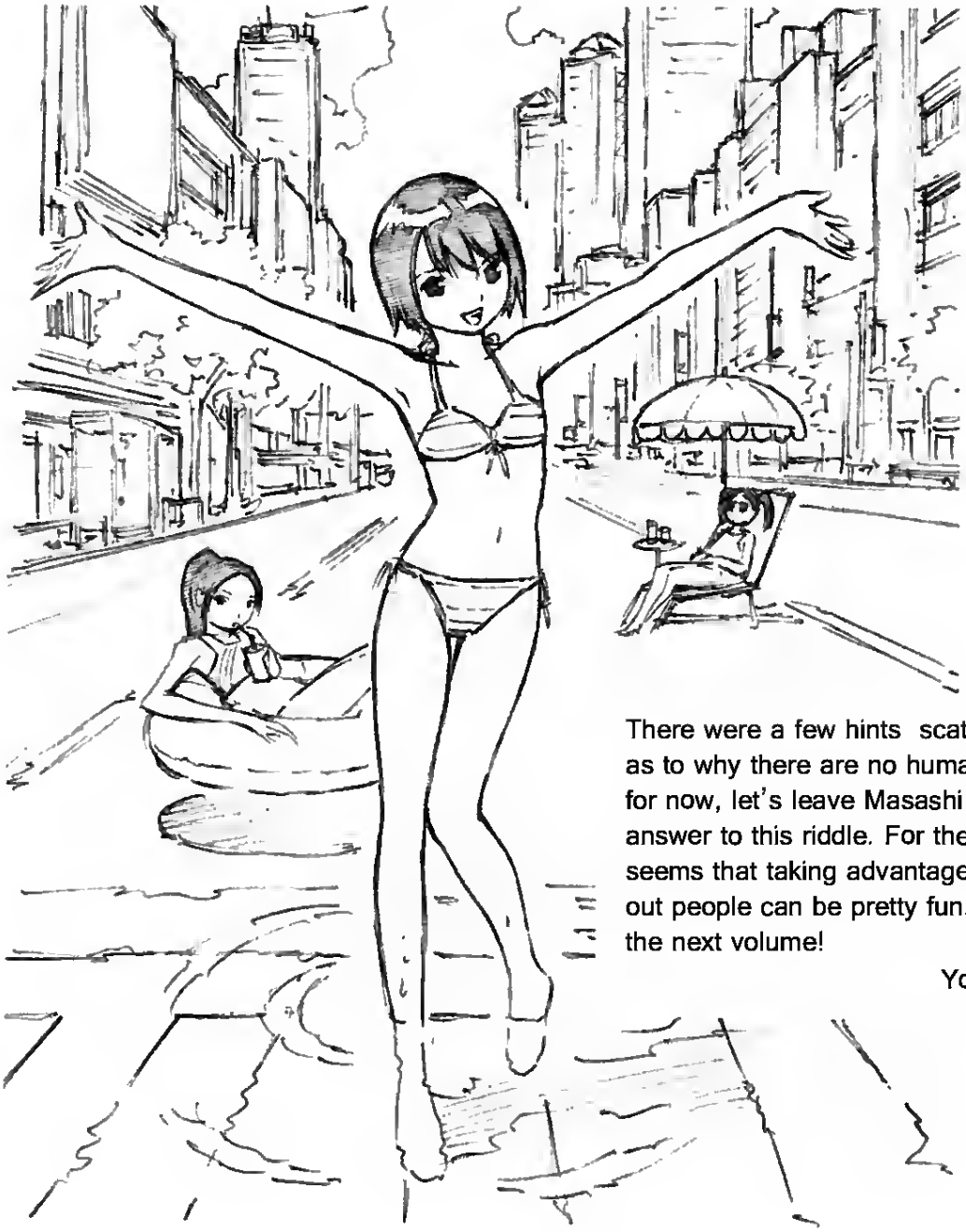
Early Concept Art of Sanae and Anna:
Except that Sanae didn't wear glasses during this time, her design hasn't really changed much. Anna's hairstyle is different though, isn't it? Somehow Anna's older design made her look more obedient than her current one.



Masashi's Garden:
Originally, Masashi's garden was planned to be on top of a building's rooftop.



Early Phantom Concept:
This design wasn't used because it was a little too creepy.



There were a few hints scattered throughout as to why there are no humans on Earth, but for now, let's leave Masashi to discover the answer to this riddle. For the present, it seems that taking advantage of a world without people can be pretty fun. Look forward to the next volume!

Yoshitomi Akihito

Earth's After School Rest 2

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TRANSLATION NOTES

MASASHI'S COMMENT (P126) - MASASHI USES THE PARTICLE WORD "NARA" (なら) AFTER HIS NAME, WHICH HAS A SUBTLE MEANING OF UNIQUENESS. SO REALLY, MASASHI IS SAYING, "SINCE IT'S ME, I SHOULD BE FINE. HE'S IMPLYING THAT IF IT WERE SOMEONE ELSE THAT MIGHT NOT BE THE CASE. THIS ALSO IMPLIES THAT HE EITHER UNDERSTANDS HIS LIMITS VERY WELL OR THIS COULD COME OFF SOUNDING INCREDIBLY ARROGANT COMING FROM HIS OWN MOUTH. HAD ONE OF THE GIRLS SAID IT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED A COMPLIMENT TO HIM.

ANNA'S USE OF GROSS - ANNA USES THE WORD "KIMOI" (キモイ) WHICH ROUGHLY TRANSLATES TO "GROSS" OR "DISGUSTING." UNLIKE THE ENGLISH WORD FOR GROSS WHICH GENERALLY DESCRIBES SOMETHING PHYSICAL OR A BEHAVIOR, "KIMOI" CAN ALSO DESCRIBE A FEELING OR ATMOSPHERE. THE GENERAL FEELING BEHIND SANAE AND YAEKO WAS GROSS TO ANNA ALONG WITH MASASHI'S HUG, WHICH IS WHY SHE USED THIS WORD. THOUGH I'M NOT COMPLETELY CERTAIN, I THINK IT MIGHT BE A CONTRACTED FORM OF "KIMOCHI WARUI" (気持ち悪い), WHICH TRANSLATES TO MEAN THE SAME THING.

JAPANESE PLURALITY - JAPANESE NOUNS CAN BE BOTH SINGULAR AND PLURAL WHEN THEY ARE NOT SINGULAR OR PLURAL BY DEFAULT. FOR EXAMPLE, 'MINNA' (みんな) MEANS EVERYONE. THIS WORD IS PLURAL BY DEFAULT BECAUSE EVERYONE CANNOT REFER TO ONE PERSON IN JAPANESE. CONVERSELY, THE PRONOUN 'WATASHI' (私) REFERS TO ONE PERSON BY DEFAULT AND BY ITSELF CANNOT MEAN 'US'. ADDITIONALLY, ALL PERSONAL PRONOUNS (NAMES) IN JAPANESE ARE SINGULAR BY DEFAULT. FOR EXAMPLE, YAEKO REFERS TO ONE SPECIFIC PERSON: YAEKO.

SOME DEFAULT SINGULAR WORDS THAT REFER TO PEOPLE CAN BE MADE PLURAL BY APPENDING THE SUFFIX 'TACHI' (達 : たち). FOR EXAMPLE, "WATASHI-TACHI" (私たち) COMBINES 'WATASHI' MEANING I WITH 'TACHI' TO MAKE WATASHI-TACHI MEANING 'US' OR 'WE'. SIMILARLY, 'TACHI' CAN MODIFY NAMES. TAKE FOR INSTANCE, YAEKO-TACHI. THIS WOULD MEAN 'YAEKO AND OTHERS' OR 'THEY/THEM'. THERE IS ONE INSTANCE IN WHICH 'TACHI' DOES NOT DISAMBIGUATE THE PLURALITY. TAKE THE WORD 'TOMO' (友), WHICH MEANS FRIEND. ADDING 'TACHI' TO MAKE TOMO-DACHI (友だち) (DON'T LET THE DACHI CONFUSED YOU, DACHI IS USED BECAUSE TOMO MODIFIES THE T SOUND MAKING A D SOUND), DOES NOT NECESSARILY MAKE THE WORD PLURAL. JAPANESE CAN REFER TO ONE OR MANY FRIENDS AS TOMO-DACHI. LIKELY, TOMO WAS SINGULAR AT SOME POINT AND 'DACHI' WAS ADDED TO MAKE IT PLURAL, BUT AS TIME PROGRESSED, REFERRING TO ONE OR MORE FRIENDS AS TOMO-DACHI BECAME EASIER. ONE FINAL POINT ABOUT 'TACHI': TYPICALLY THIS IS RESERVED FOR WORDS REFERRING TO "LIVING THINGS" LIKE 'ME/I', 'YOU/YOUR', 'YAEKO', ETC. IT IS NOT USED FOR OBJECTS LIKE BALLS, COMPUTERS, CARS, PLANTS, BACTERIA (THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE DOES NOT CONSIDER PLANTS OR BACTERIA ALIVE; OF COURSE THE JAPANESE PEOPLE WOULD SAY THAT THEY ARE), ETC.

TRANSLATION NOTES

SOMETIMES 'RA' IS USED INSTEAD OF 'TACHI' FOR PEOPLE-SPECIFIC NOUNS. FOR EXAMPLE, 'KARE' MEANING MAN CAN HAVE 'RA' APPENDED TO IT TO MAKE 'KARERA' MEANING THEM/THEY (REFERRING TO MEN). THE MALE NEUTRAL PRONOUN USED BY BOYS 'BOKU' CAN ALSO HAVE 'RA' ATTACHED TO IT TO MAKE 'BOKURA' MEANING "WE/US". HOWEVER TO MAKE THINGS REALLY CONFUSING, 'BOKU' CAN ALSO HAVE 'TACHI' APPENDED TO IT MEAN THE SAME THING ('BOKURA' MEANING = 'BOKU-TACHI' MEANING).

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PEOPLE-BASED NOUNS, CONTEXT, ADDING A MODIFYING WORD, OR DEFINING A SPECIFIC NUMBER IS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE WHETHER A NOUN IS SINGULAR OR PLURAL. CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLE WHERE 'RINGO' MEANS APPLE, 'MOTTEIRU'MEANS 'HAVE', 'WO' DENOTES THAT SOMEONE OWNS THE APPLE (IN THIS CASE IT IS 'I') FOR EXAMPLE, 'RINGO WO MOTTEIRU' CAN MEAN 'I HAVE APPLES' OR 'I HAVE AN APPLE' IN JAPANESE. THERE IS NO WAY TO DIFFERENTIATE WHAT IS MEANT BY THIS STATEMENT IN JAPANESE. TO ENSURE OTHERS DON'T MISUNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN, YOU CAN ADD A MODIFYING WORD LIKE 'TAKUSAN' MEANING 'MANY'. FOR EXAMPLE, 'RINGO WO TAKUSAN MOTTEIRU', WHICH MEANS: 'I HAVE LOTS OF APPLES '. YOU COULD ALSO SPECIFICALLY STATE HOW MANY APPLES THERE ARE BY ADDING 'FUTATSU' WHICH MEANS 'TWO'. FOR EXAMPLE, 'RINGO WO FUTATASU MOTTEIRU' WHICH MEANS 'I HAVE 2 APPLES'.

IF THE SPEAKER IS NOT SO KIND AS TO ADD A SUFFIX BECAUSE THEY CAN'T AS IN THE CASE OF APPLES AND THEY DON'T ADD A MODIFIER BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT STRESSING QUANTITY AND THEY DON'T SPECIFY A NUMBER BECAUSE THE NUMBER ISN'T RELEVANT, CONTEXT IS THE ONLY WAY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS MEANT. CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLE,

ANNA: 'YAEKO GA RINGO WO TAKUSAN MOTTEIRU'(YAEKO HAS LOTS OF APPLES)
YAEKO: 'UN, RINGO WO MOTTEIRU'. (YEAH, I HAVE APPLES)

BECAUSE ANNA TALKS ABOUT MORE THAN ONE APPLE TO BEGIN WITH, IT'S EASY TO TELL THAT YAEKO IS TALKING ABOUT ONE THAN ONE APPLE WHEN SHE SPEAKS. IF YOU HAD ENTERED THE CONVERSATION AFTER ANNA SPOKE WITHOUT HEARING WHAT SHE SAID IN JAPANESE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHETHER YAEKO HAD ONE OR MORE APPLES. IN CONCLUSION, PLURALITY CAN BE A BIT TRICKY. MOST BEGINNERS LEARNING JAPANESE (WHO DO NOT SPEAK A LANGUAGE THAT DERIVES ITS LETTERING SYSTEM FROM CHINESE) WANT TO ATTACH 'TACHI' TO EVERYTHING TO DISAMBIGUATE PLURAL NOUNS FROM SINGULAR NOUNS, BUT THIS WILL SOUND WRONG TO NATIVE SPEAKERS. THOSE PRACTICING JAPANESE SHOULD INSTEAD LEARN TO LISTEN FOR SPOKEN CLUES TO DETERMINE PLURALITY. IF THIS SEEMS DAUNTING, KEEP IN MIND THAT IN MANY CASES, PLURALITY DOESN'T EVEN MATTER AND IF IT DOES, A NUMBER WILL BE SPECIFIED. HOWEVER, IT CAN LEAD TO SOME INTERESTING MISUNDERSTANDINGS LIKE IN THIS CHAPTER.

So as some of you might know, I was on a brief hiatus because there were some real issues that I neded to handle. They mostly pertained to oportunities for my future, so it was imperative that I spent some time on them. However, now that I am done with them, I will be back to translating. To thank everyone for bearing with me, I'm planning to pick up the translation rate for the next couple of weeks. Thanks to everyone who waited for me. I hope you enjoy the final chapter of volume 2. See you in volume 3 soon!

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